

Directed Learning Activity (DLA): Main Ideas

Objective: The goal of this activity is to help you improve in your reading comprehension skills by understanding the definition of the main idea, identifying the main idea in a paragraph, and writing your own topic sentence.

Activity: Ask a Literacy Center tutor for the *Comprehension Skills Series: Understanding the Main Idea* text.

1. Read Part One (pages 5-6) and answer the following questions:
 - a. What is a paragraph?

 - b. The main idea of a paragraph gives the writing a _____ and makes a _____ of the subject.

2. Read Part Two (pages 7-13) and answer the following questions:
 - a. Answer the Preview Quiz 2 question.

 - b. What two items must a paragraph have?

 - c. What is a topic sentence, and where in the paragraph is it located?

 - d. Answer the Preview Quiz 3.

 - e. Answer the Preview Quiz 4.

3. Read Part Three (pages 17-21) and take notes on separate paper.

4. Read Part Four: complete Practice Exercises 1-10 and write your answers below. If you need some assistance in this section, feel free to ask a tutor or the instructor.

- Practice 1: 1.) _____ 2.) _____ 3.) _____ 4.) **Write your answer on separate paper.**
- Practice 2: 1.) _____ 2.) _____ 3.) _____ 4.) **Write your answer on separate paper.**
- Practice 3: 1.) _____ 2.) _____ 3.) _____ 4.) **Write your answer on separate paper.**
- Practice 4: 1.) _____ 2.) _____ 3.) _____ 4.) **Write your answer on separate paper.**
- Practice 5: 1.) _____ 2.) _____ 3.) _____ 4.) **Write your answer on separate paper.**
- Practice 6: 1.) _____ 2.) _____ 3.) _____ 4.) **Write your answer on separate paper.**
- Practice 7: 1.) _____ 2.) _____ 3.) _____ 4.) **Write your answer on separate paper.**
- Practice 8: 1.) _____ 2.) _____ 3.) _____ 4.) **Write your answer on separate paper.**
- Practice 9: 1.) _____ 2.) _____ 3.) _____ 4.) **Write your answer on separate paper.**
- Practice 10: 1.) _____ 2.) _____ 3.) _____ 4.) **Write your answer on separate paper.**

Tutor Review:

1. Ask a Literacy Center tutor for the answer key and check your answers. Write down the number correct: _____
2. If you miss more than 12 on the Practice Exercises, review your answers with a tutor.

_____/_____/_____

Tutor Signature

Date

Stamp