Main Idea

Can you answer these questions about a written piece’s main idea? Check your answers when you’re finished and review what you missed so you can learn.

A main idea is…
   a. the general topic
   b. the specific point being made about the topic
   c. a supporting detail

The main idea is reinforced by…
   a. supporting details
   b. statements of opinion
   c. good grammar

What might be the main idea in an essay on smoking?
   a. smoking
   b. cigarettes
   c. smoking is bad for your health

Where is the main idea usually found in a paragraph?
   a. in the first sentence
   b. in the middle
   c. in the last sentence

What’s a good way to find the main idea of something you’re reading?
   a. ask yourself general questions about what you’ve read
   b. only read the piece once
   c. memorize the piece

Which statement is true about main ideas?
   a. they are always factual
   b. they need to have good supporting details
   c. they should be stated first
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