

Main Idea

The **main idea** is usually a statement that tells the author's point about the topic. It provides the message of a given paragraph or the argument that is being made about the topic.

To determine what the main idea is; ask yourself this question: what is being said about the person, thing, or idea (the topic)?

Directions: Determine and write the main idea of each paragraph below. Then write two details supporting the main idea.



HOT DOG EATING COMPETITION

Beginning on 1916, the Hot Dog Eating contest has become the “de facto Olympics” for the sport of competitive eating. On July 4, 1916, four immigrants held a hot dog eating contest at Nathan's Famous stand on Coney Island to settle an argument about who was the most patriotic. Since then, Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest has become an annual American hot dog eating competition. It is held each year on Independence Day at Nathan's famous corporation's original, and best-known restaurant at the corner of Surf and Stillwell Avenues in Coney Island, a neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York city.

1) **MAIN IDEA:** _____

SUPPORTING DETAIL 1: _____

SUPPORTING DETAIL 2: _____

THE BOY SCOUTS



The Boy Scouts is an organization with the purpose of character-building for boys between the ages of twelve and eighteen. It is an effort to get boys to appreciate the things about them and to train them in self-reliance, manhood, and good citizenship. It is "peace-scouting" these boys engage in, living as much as possible outdoors; camping, hiking, and learning the secrets of the woods and fields. The movement is not essentially military, but the military virtues of discipline, obedience, neatness, and order are scout virtues. The scout objectives are endurance, self-reliance, self-control, and an effort to help someone else.

2) **MAIN IDEA:** _____

SUPPORTING DETAIL 1: _____

SUPPORTING DETAIL 2: _____