**Reading comprehension**

***The topic VS the main idea***

-To find the topic of the passage you need to ask yourself

“What is the passage about? “

-to find the main idea of a passage you need to ask yourself

“What is the author saying about the topic?”

***Finding the main idea***

-the main idea is often found in the first 1/3 of the passage

-it may be repeated in different ways (using different vocabulary) throughout the passage

-when you think that you have found the main idea, ask yourself the following question:

“Do the examples, reasons and explanations include in the reading support the main idea?”

If yes, you have likely found the main idea

***Supporting details***

Supporting details are sentences that explain the main idea

***General idea VS specific details***

-The main idea in a reading is a general idea

-the supporting information in a reading is made up of specific details

Eg:

Chemistry: science, physics, biology

The general term is science because it includes all those examples

***Types of supporting details***

* Examples
* Explanation
* Reasons
* Descriptions

Television can be an excellent teacher for every one from very young children to the oldest of viewers. Television entertains young children with educational programs and songs. It can provide company for older viewers who are alone at home with no one to talk to. New immigrants can learn the local language just by turning on the television. In sum, television is a good tool for all people of all age.

One the main idea

Two supporting detail 1

Three supporting detail 2

Four supporting detail 3

Five reformulation of the main idea