

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Main Idea WS6 Homework



A good topic sentence clearly states the main idea of the paragraph and is supported by interesting details.

- A. Read this paragraph from a biography. Circle the topic sentence and underline the details that support it.

### John Ross: An Old-Fashioned Country Doctor

Dr. John Ross was well-known for going out of his way to help his patients. Many of his patients were poor farmers, and they could not always afford to pay Dr. Ross's small fee. The good doctor would accept vegetables, eggs, or even a simple "thank you" in payment. One winter afternoon, he made a house call to see a child with a fever. The girl's family had run out of the firewood they needed to keep their tiny house warm. Dr. Ross grabbed a spare blanket from his car and told the father to bathe his daughter's forehead with cool water. Then Dr. Ross left to take care of other patients. After setting a broken leg, delivering a baby, and cleaning an infected finger, he returned to the sick child's house with a load of firewood. He built a roaring fire for the little girl and her family.

- B. The topic sentence is missing from this paragraph. Write a topic sentence that states the main idea of the paragraph.

One former patient, who had paid Dr. Ross many times in eggs, brought homemade chicken soup for the sick doctor. Another patient fixed a hole in his roof, and another drove to town to buy medicine for the doctor. The little girl who had suffered from the fever was all grown up, and she made sure that the doctor's faithful dog enjoyed a walk every day.

Topic Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_



Make sure all of your details support your main idea.

- A. Read this book report. Use proofreading marks to:
- move the topic sentence to a better place.
  - delete details that do not support the topic sentence.

### *A Good Mystery*

Trixie Belden is a thirteen-year-old who solves mysteries with her friends. I can't wait to be thirteen. In The Secret of the Mansion, Trixie meets Honey, a girl who becomes her best friend. I have always wanted to live on a farm like Trixie's family does. The Secret of the Mansion by Julie Campbell is the first in a series of mysteries featuring Trixie Belden. Trixie and Honey work together to find out what is going on in a spooky old mansion that is supposed to be empty—but it's not! Trixie and Honey find a boy named Jim in one of the rooms. Old houses are scary and full of cobwebs. Jim has run away from his mean stepfather to live in the mansion, which used to be his great-uncle's home. Supposedly, his great-uncle hid thousands of dollars in the house, so the search is on for the missing treasure! I won't give away the book's ending, because not knowing is part of the fun. But if you want a great mystery, read The Secret of the Mansion. My brother thought this book was boring.

- B. Find the three possessive nouns in the book report. Use them to complete these sentences.
1. The \_\_\_\_\_ two main characters are Trixie and Honey.
  2. Jim really wants to find his \_\_\_\_\_ treasure.
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ first name is actually Beatrix.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Main Idea WS 7 Homework



Stay focused on your topic so your reader doesn't get confused.

- A. Read these two paragraphs from different autobiographies. Check the one that sticks to the topic. In the other one, cross out the details that do not belong in an autobiography.

My Early Years

I was born on November 5, 1996. My mom and dad were living in a small apartment in Boston, Massachusetts. The apartment was so small that they had to move so there would be enough room for me. We moved to a bigger apartment in a different part of the city, and we still live there. Down the street from our apartment is a playground. I remember my dad taking me there to play with other little kids from the neighborhood. My dad said that it was at this playground that I said my first word, "doggy."

My Childhood

I was born on October 4, 1996, in a hospital in Zoesville, West Virginia. The hospital is a red building with a courtyard in the middle. It is not as big as the hospital where my dad works. He is a doctor. We moved to Columbus, Ohio, last year. At first, I was nervous about leaving West Virginia, but now I like it here. I hope to be a doctor someday. Also, we're taking a trip to New York City next year.

- B. Write commas in the correct places.

1. March 16 2006 was the first time I had ever been on an airplane.
2. My family flew to Little Rock Arkansas to visit my grandparents.
3. We celebrated my grandfather's birthday on March 18 2006.
4. Then we flew home to Scranton Pennsylvania on March 23 2006.



Eliminate details that do not support your purpose and main idea. Those details distract your reader.

Read this letter sent to the director of Camp Silver Hawk. Cross out the unnecessary details. Then use proofreading marks to insert commas in the date and addresses.

503 Putnam Avenue  
Apollo CT 05023

January 30 2010

Mr. Spiro Diamond  
14 Lake Road  
Echo Valley NH 02137

Dear Mr. Diamond:

I wish to apply for a place in Camp Silver Hawk's Junior Counselor-in-Training program. I first heard about the program last month, but I did not have any time to write this letter because I was learning to ski. My cousin completed the Counselor-in-Training program last summer, and he told me all about it. My cousin thought it was too cold in New Hampshire, so he will not be back.

There are several reasons why I would make a good junior counselor. First, I have been a member of the Outdoor Club for a year now. I usually bring a snack with me when I hike. During club hikes, I learned the names of many native plants, animals, and insects. Also, I help my soccer coach with the youngest kids in our soccer league. My coach says that I work well with small children. I enjoy teaching them to work together as a team. Finally, I am a good student, which shows that I am responsible. I hope that you will agree that I would be a great addition to Camp Silver Hawk. If I don't go to Camp Silver Hawk, I will go to basketball camp.

Sincerely,  
Dan Pinski

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Main Idea WSG Home Work



Eliminate details that do not support your purpose and main idea.

- A. Read this newspaper advertisement for a summer camp. Cross out the details that do not support the purpose and main idea. Use proofreading marks to correct the use of commas in the date and address.

**Give your children a summer to remember!**

*Send your kids to Camp Silver Hawk on the shores of beautiful Lake Echo!*

**At Silver Hawk, counselors lead campers in fun activities such as:**


- hiking beautiful trails
- washing dishes
- canoeing and kayaking
- sweeping dead bugs out of cabins
- doing crafts such as pottery and woodcarving
- singing camp songs
- picking up litter
- repairing leaky boats

**About Camp Silver Hawk:**

- We're 80 years old this year, and although our buildings are falling down, they're historical landmarks!
- We're located right next to the freeway, across from the landfill.
- Kids from ages 6 to 16 are welcome.

To reserve a place at Camp Silver Hawk for your child, send a check for \$50.00 to the following address. All checks must be received by May, 15 2010.

**Camp Silver Hawk Office**  
14 Lake Road  
Echo, Valley NH, 42137



- B. Replace three of the details you crossed out above with activities or other details that would make you want to go to Camp Silver Hawk.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



Use logical organization so your writing makes sense. Group similar ideas and details together.

- A. Underline the main idea of this essay. Draw two lines under the main idea of each paragraph. Finally, cross out and correct the four misspelled homophones.

### What's That Smell?

Keeping your locker clean and organized will make you a better and happier student. If your locker is disorganized, you will have a mess. You will lose important books and papers that you need for class. On a rainy day, your coat will never dry because its jammed in next to your dirty gym clothes. Your science project will be crushed when your library books fall on it. You'll never have sharp pencils because every led tip will be broken off. Someday, someone will ask, "What's that smell?" and you'll realize that the smell is coming from a forgotten sandwich at the bottom of your locker!

On the other hand, if you keep you're locker clean and organized, your life will be much happier. Your books and papers will be easy to find. Your wet coat will be dry before lunchtime. You'll get a good grade on that science project and never ruin another pencil. Best of all, the next time someone asks, "What's that smell?" they won't be pointing at your locker. So don't waist another minute. Start cleaning!

- B. Fill in the outline below with details from each paragraph.

I. Disorganized locker

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. \_\_\_\_\_

II. Organized locker

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. \_\_\_\_\_

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# Main Ideas WS9 Homework



When you want to be persuasive, organize your ideas to build your argument. State your opinion, and then give reasons with supporting evidence.

Read this persuasive paragraph. Then:

- Use proofreading marks to fix the incorrect uses of *good* and *well*.
- Fill in the opinion diagram to show how the writer organized her argument.

## Our Most Important Meal

For students who want to do good in school, breakfast is the most important meal of the day. When you skip breakfast, you are like a car trying to run without fuel. Experts say that a nutritious breakfast is the brain's fuel. A brain that is fully fueled concentrates better and solves problems faster. Some students say that getting an extra few minutes of sleep is more important than eating a bowl of oatmeal, but they're wrong. Of course, sleeping is important, but going to bed a half-hour earlier would be better than sleeping late and skipping breakfast. Give your brain the fuel it needs to run good. To think clearer and faster, eat a well breakfast.

<b>Opinion Statement:</b>	
<b>Reason:</b>	
<b>Supporting Evidence:</b>	
<b>Possible Objection:</b>	
<b>Response to Objection:</b>	
<b>Closing Statement:</b>	



To persuade your reader, be sure to organize your reasons and evidence so that they clearly support your opinion.

Read the following letter of recommendation. Then:

- Use proofreading marks to fix the incorrect uses of *good* and *well*.
- Fill in the diagram to show how David organized his reasons and supporting evidence.

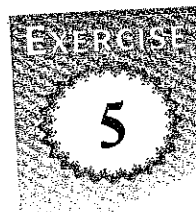
Dear Mr. and Ms. Trevino,

I know that you are looking for a dog walker for your poodle. You should hire my cousin, Jessica. She has the qualities that a well dog walker needs. First of all, Jessica is very responsible. When she takes care of our dog, Bruno, she always feeds him on time and never forgets to walk him. Jessica also has experience as a dog trainer. In fact, Jessica trained Bruno very good. He now knows how to sit, stay, and play good with other dogs. Most importantly, Jessica loves dogs. She brings them treats, and she even visits them when they aren't feeling well. I promise you will feel good about hiring Jessica to walk your dog.

Your neighbor,  
David Orloff

<b>Reason 1:</b>
<b>Supporting Evidence:</b>
<b>Reason 2:</b>
<b>Supporting Evidence:</b>
<b>Reason 3:</b>
<b>Supporting Evidence:</b>





## Main Ideas

Read each paragraph. Choose the best answers.

Do you eat breakfast every day? Researchers have found that people who eat a balanced breakfast are likely to be healthier than those who don't. One reason is that most people eat whole grains at breakfast, and these promote good health. Breakfast eaters also tend to have fewer weight problems than those who skip the meal. People who don't eat breakfast usually eat too much later in the day. Often, these foods are not healthy and cause weight gain and other problems. So, be sure to eat breakfast. It is the most important meal of the day.

- 1 The main idea of this paragraph is
- (A) Breakfast is the most important meal.
  - (B) Skipping breakfast makes you hungry.
  - (C) Breakfast is a delicious meal.
  - (D) Breakfast eaters have fewer weight problems.
- 2 A supporting detail is
- (A) People eat too much at lunch.
  - (B) No one has time to eat breakfast.
  - (C) Only healthy people eat breakfast.
  - (D) Whole grains at breakfast promote health.

Once, shoes were made entirely by hand. The hardest step was connecting the upper part of a shoe to the innersole. A worker had to stretch the leather over a wooden form called a *last*. Jan Matzeliger changed all that in the 1880s. He invented a lasting machine to do this difficult work. Matzeliger's machine meant that many more shoes could be made in a day than before and for less money. The price of shoes came down, and more people could afford them.

- 3 The main idea of this paragraph is
- (A) Once shoes were made by hand.
  - (B) Jan Matzeliger was an inventor.
  - (C) Matzeliger changed how shoes are made.
  - (D) More people could now afford shoes.
- 4 A supporting detail is
- (A) What Matzeliger's machine looked like
  - (B) Lasting is a difficult step in shoemaking.
  - (C) Some people went barefoot.
  - (D) The 1880s were a time of change.



The best way to organize your writing depends on your topic and purpose.

Decide which type of organization each paragraph uses. Write the correct letter on the line. Then fill in the missing parts of the organizers.

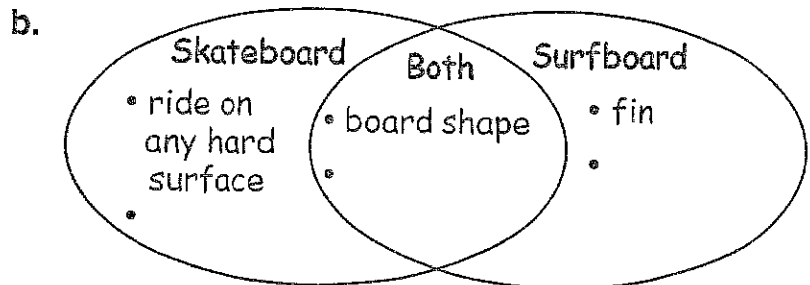
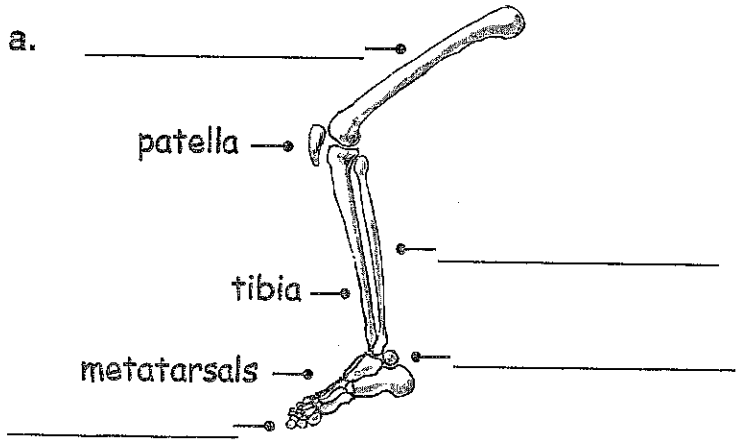
**Paragraph**

1. \_\_\_\_ Our school should have a jump rope team. Jumping rope is an excellent form of exercise. It improves your strength, balance, and coordination. It also teaches teamwork because you have to time the jumping and rope turning with your teammates. Some people think that it isn't a real sport, but those people should try it sometime to see how challenging it is!

2. \_\_\_\_ Many bones make up the human leg. It starts with the femur, or thighbone. Below the femur is the patella, or kneecap. Below that are the tibia and fibula. The tibia is in front of the fibula. Both connect to the talus, or anklebone, which is attached to the metatarsals. Protruding from the metatarsals are the phalanges.

3. \_\_\_\_ Skateboards and surfboards have a lot in common. In addition to their similar shapes, both can carry you when you stand on them. However, a skateboard has wheels, while a surfboard has a fin. You can ride a skateboard on any hard surface, but you need ocean waves to ride a surfboard!

**Organization**



c.

Opinion Statement:
Reason 1: excellent form of exercise Example:
Reason 2: Example: have to work with teammates to time jumping and rope turning
Possible Objection: Answer: People should try it themselves.