

How do writers communicate a main idea?

CCSSW.2. Write **informative/explanatory** texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

Note to teachers: *This activity is designed to help students know more about main ideas by having them write to support their own main idea.*

An idea is a way of thinking about something. For example, Chicago is the name of a city. **So if you read a passage called Chicago, you would learn about the city. When you read the passage, then you think about the information to figure out what idea the writer wants you to learn about Chicago.** For example, **Chicago has changed in many ways** is a big idea, a way of thinking about the city. Take a look at the reading on the next page and figure out which of these ideas is the one that the passage explains.

You can figure out the main idea two ways. You can start with what you think is the main idea and look for information and examples that support it. Or you can start with information and use that to infer the main idea they support.

To make sure you know what a main idea is, complete this task. Organize your own passage about Chicago.

First, think of a big idea about Chicago.

You can choose one of these or use one of your own!

Chicago has changed in many ways.

TOPIC: Chicago

MY IDEA: _____

Examples I will use to make it clear.

Example

Example

Example