

# READING

## Main idea Strategy

Increasing student ability to summarize the main idea of an expository passage.

## CANDIDATES

- Students who struggle to determine the main idea of a passage.

## MATERIALS

- Progress monitoring graph
- Main idea Graphic Organizer sheet
- Expository passages (textbook or other)
- Pencils / Markers

## PROCEDURE

### Bi-weekly Support

1. Rate or score by percentage the student's reading comprehension accuracy. Chart at least 6 scores (this may be from grade book formative assessments.)
2. Introduce the Main Idea Map strategy by telling students that we can draw pictures or main idea maps to help us to understand how the ideas of a passage, section, or chapter fit together.
3. Present three steps for mapping out the main idea of an expository passage:
  1. Locate the main idea of the paragraph
  2. Read through the paragraph
  3. Practice an expository passage with students
4. On chart paper or a projector, use the example map or begin building a graphic organizer by writing the title of the passage in the center. Draw a box around the title. (If no title, create a summarized title)
5. Tell students that some paragraphs have summary sentences that state the main idea / gist of the passage. Other paragraphs have implied main ideas decoded based on key facts or ideas.
6. Review each paragraph in the practice passage and identify the paragraph's main idea. Demonstrate how to summarize the idea in a single phrase.
7. Write and number the paragraph and main idea phrase on the graphic organizer.
8. When each main idea has been recorded, record 2-3 important facts / supporting details for each paragraph. Write the facts beneath the summary phrase for each paragraph.
9. Rate or score by percentage the student's reading comprehension accuracy. Chart at least 6 scores (this may be from grade book formative assessments.)
10. Scores that show a 20% or greater improvement indicate positive response to the intervention.

## REFERENCES

Griffin, C., Duncan Malone, L., & Kameenuk, E (1995). Effects of Graphic Organizer Instruction on Fifth Grade Students. *The Journal of Educational Research*, 89, 2. 98-107.