



facultad de
estudios generales

Main and secondary ideas

Important:

At the end of this presentation there is a link to a Microsoft Forms quiz. It is recommended that you score an 80% or higher.

Please take your time reviewing and studying this material before you proceed with the quiz.

Objectives

- Identify the main idea and the secondary ideas of a paragraph
- Write a body paragraph

- This information is aimed at improving writing skills.
- Non-literary writing is usually outlined in paragraphs:

essays

biographies

reports

articles

- Each paragraph usually contains a main idea, whose reinforcement, extension, or exemplification will be in charge of the secondary sentences.

The paragraph

- It is a set of related sentences that develop a single theme.
- Paragraphs must have:

An opening sentence

Introduces the topic or the main idea

- ✓ Hook sentence
- ✓ Thematic sentence

Developing sentences

Support the main idea via secondary ideas

A concluding sentence

Ends the paragraph by:

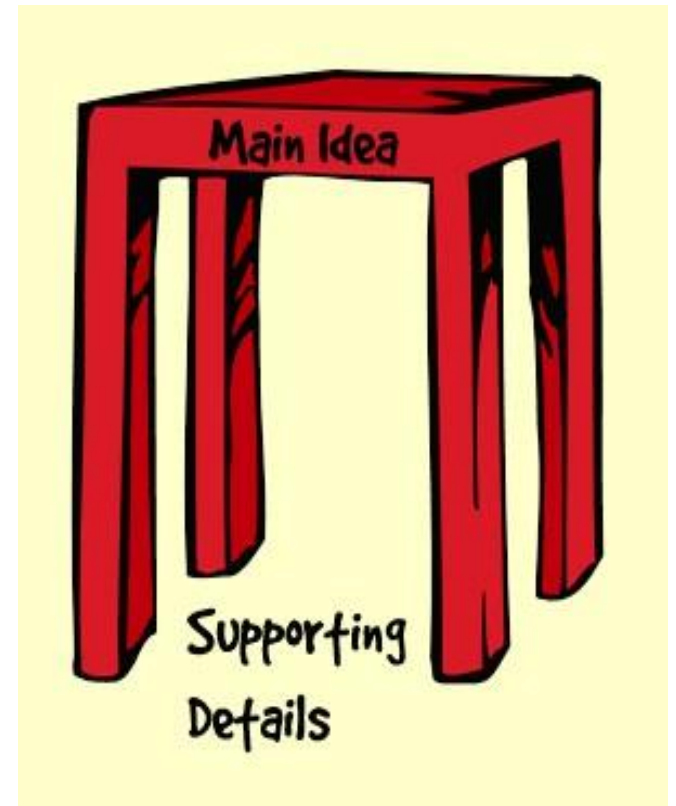
- ✓ Summarizing ideas
- ✓ Repeating important ideas
- ✓ Making a general comment

Introduction paragraph

- States the topic of the text.
- At times, it serves as a conceptual map of the work.
- Must include:

Hook: Grabs the reader's attention

- ✓ Fact
- ✓ Anecdote
- ✓ Question



Thesis statement: Affirmative sentence that summarizes the content of the text.

Introduction paragraph

Hook

It is estimated that there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050. Only 9% of this multi-use material is recycled in the world. Its removal is necessary, but getting rid of it isn't easy. Even so, any individual can reduce plastic production by replacing disposable objects with reusable equivalents.

Thesis
statement

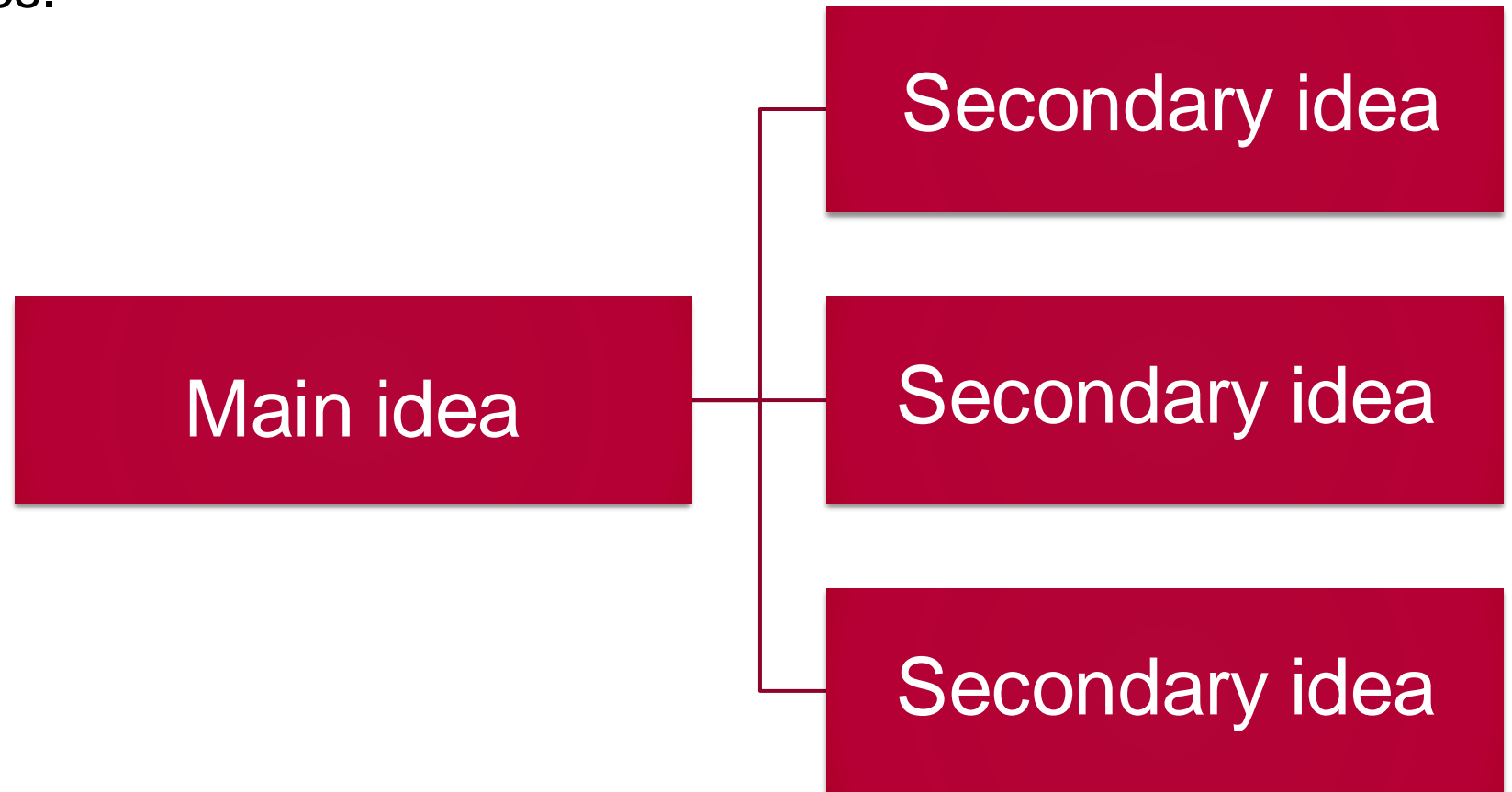
Body paragraph

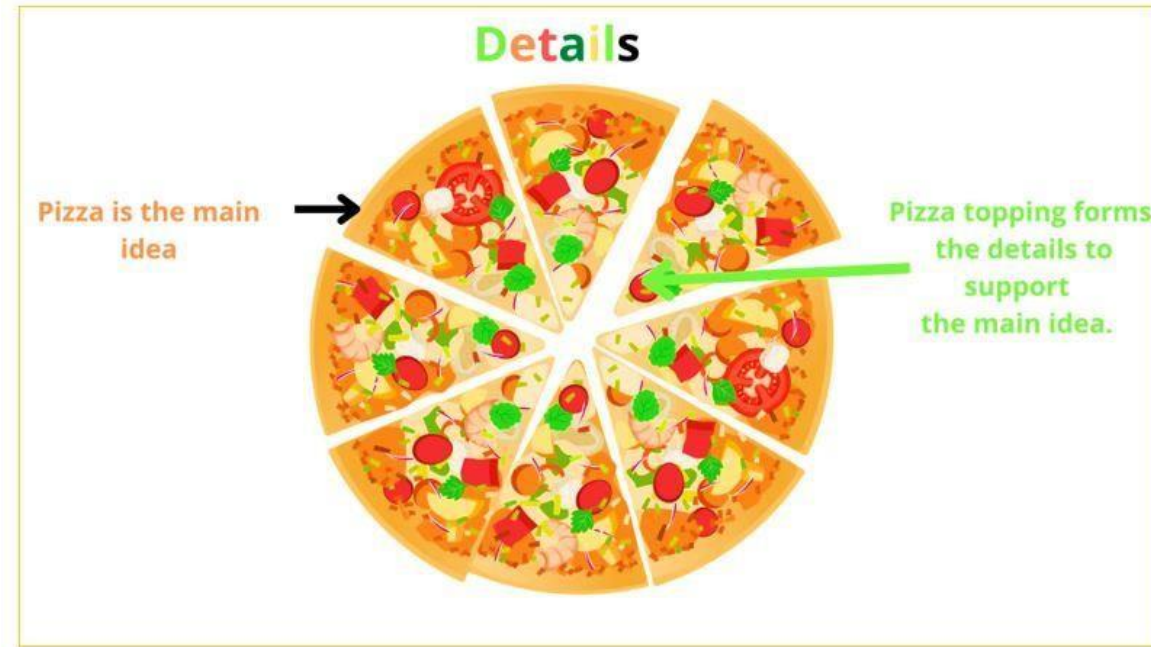
- Develops, through arguments, the theme established in the introduction.
- Each argument supporting the text's thesis must be the central idea of an individual paragraph.

Topic sentence: Guides and synthesizes the paragraph. It is usually a simple sentence. States the central idea of the paragraph.

- Thus, we can confirm that:

The central idea is one that can be subdivided into other secondary ideas, which it summarizes.





EXAMPLE:

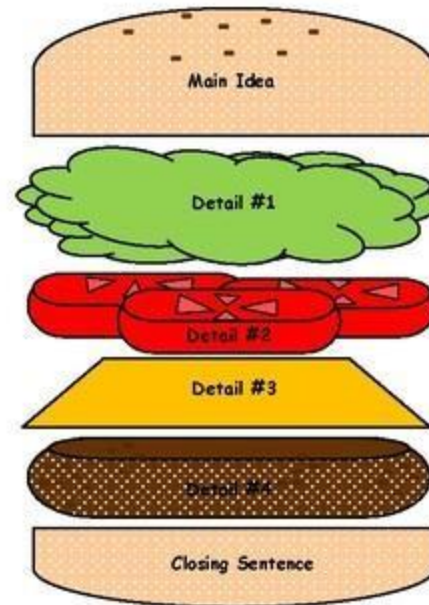
Read the following paragraph.

The food industry is an area of the economy that provides numerous jobs, generates large amounts of revenue, and is responsible for a variety of essential goods and services. Countless small businesses, retail stores, and restaurants operate within this industry. From local farmers who produce fresh organic produce to prepared food delivery services, the food industry offers a spectrum of paths to pursue in terms of employment. Not only does it provide job opportunities, but food production and consumption also have a powerful impact on health and nutrition. For this reason, the food industry plays a crucial role in improving public health outcomes. Furthermore, it plays a leading role in international trade and the global economy. To sum up, the food industry has a significant influence on society due to its ability to generate jobs and revenue, improve public health through nutrition, and facilitate international trade.

- **Main idea:**

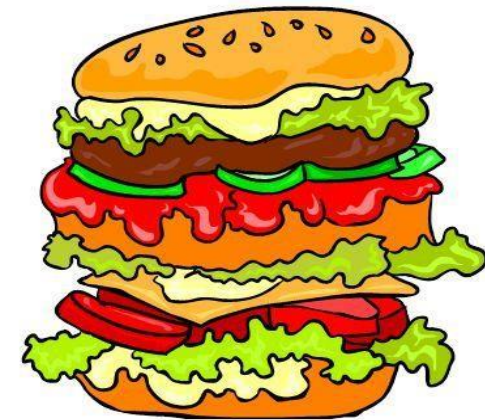
The food industry has a significant influence on society.

- **Secondary Ideas:** provides job opportunities, impact on health and nutrition, generate revenue, and facilitate international trade.



An Edible Analogy

Supporting details are like the extra toppings - the pickles, onions, cheese, tomato, ketchup, and mustard - added onto a hamburger.



They all **work together** to make the **hamburger** more tasty. However, all of these **supporting details** relate to one central **main idea**.

Body paragraph

Practice exercise. Develop a paragraph around the following central idea:

1. Reusable straws could eliminate plastic straws.
 - There are:
 - a. A variety of reusable straws: glass, stainless steel, and bamboo.
 - b. A brush to clean them.
 - c. A case to store them.
 - The price starts from \$1.00.
 - Plastic straws:
 - a. Are not recyclable.
 - b. End up in landfills and oceans.

References:

Ortiz Guzmán, Rosaura. Lectura y redacción. Segunda edición. San Juan: Editorial Plaza Mayor, 1999.

Canetti-Mirabal, Ileana. Lengua, literatura y comunicación. Decimoséptima edición. San Juan: Editorial Plaza Mayor, 2005.

After completing the module, click on the following link to take the quiz and send the report to your professor:

<https://forms.office.com/r/1gdeUGkh6N>

Thanks for using our resources!



To know more about our Center and the services we provide, visit:

<http://generales.uprrp.edu/competencias-linguisticas/>