



## GED Reading Skills

Focus: Main Idea and Supporting Details

Activity Type: Graphic Organizer

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Students will be able to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Infer the main idea of a document or a passage</li><li>• Identify details or examples that support the main idea</li></ul>
<b>Directions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Copy the <i>Main Idea and Supporting Ideas</i> worksheet on the next page and distribute it to the class.</li><li>2. Tell students that on the GED Tests, they will need to understand the main idea of a paragraph or an entire passage. To determine the main idea, they will need to ask themselves two questions:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>What is the topic of the passage?</i></li><li>• <i>What is the main point that the writer is making about the topic?</i></li></ul></li><li>3. Students read the memo, keeping those two questions in mind.</li><li>4. Ask, “<i>What is the main idea of the memo?</i>” If students say “Photo ID badges” or “Wearing Photo ID badges,” tell them that the topic of the memo – but it isn’t the writer’s main point. For the main point, you can accept something similar to: “Employees must wear their security badges.”</li><li>5. Ask students to reread the memo and underline three supporting ideas that address: <i>What? Why? How? Where? or When?</i> Have students write 3 of the supporting ideas in the Supporting Details box. You can accept answers such as: <b>Who:</b> only people who belong can come in; <b>Why:</b> protects me, protects my property, and protects company property, <b>How:</b> ID must be clearly displayed; if lost, get temporary badge.</li></ol>
<b>Skill Across the Curriculum</b>	<p>In addition to applying this skill when reading a passage on the Reading, Social Studies, and Science Tests, it is also important for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Essay Writing:</b> You can use the same graphic organizer to help students write paragraphs. The topic sentence of a paragraph expresses its main or controlling idea and supporting sentences includes facts, details, or examples that support the main idea.</li><li>• <b>Writing Test, Part I, Organization Questions:</b> A type of Organization question asks to consider “removing” a sentence from a paragraph. In essence, this question asks students to determine whether a sentence does or does not support the main idea of the paragraph.</li><li>• <b>Graphic Literacy:</b> In order to interpret a graphic and answer questions, students must first be clear about the main idea of the graphic – which is generally expressed in a title or caption. Too often students skip that step, which hinders their ability to answer questions correctly.</li></ul>
<b>Activity Correlated to NRP Workbooks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pre-GED Skill Workbook: Reading : <i>Main Idea, pp. 8-9; Supporting Details, pp. 10-11</i></li><li>• GED Skill Workbook: Reading: <i>Main Idea and Supporting Detail, pp. 12-13</i></li><li>• GED Scoreboost: Critical Thinking: <i>Understanding Main Idea and Supporting Details, pp. 2-3</i></li></ul>
<b>College and Career Readiness Standards</b>	<b>Common Core Standards (<a href="http://www.corestandards.org/">http://www.corestandards.org/</a>) English Language Arts: Reading Informational Text: <b>GR. 8:</b> Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas. <b>GR. 9-10:</b> Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific detail. <b>GR 11-12:</b> Determine two or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text.</b>

## Main Idea and Supporting Details

**STOVIC & ASSOCIATES**  
**PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY**

TO: All Employees  
FROM: Josef Stovic, Head of Security

DATE: October 1  
SUBJECT: Photo I.D. Badges

Lately, I have seen employees break company rules by not wearing their photo I.D. badges. I'd like to remind all employees that wearing I.D. badges helps us ensure that only people who belong here are admitted to our facilities. This simple security measure helps us to protect you, your personal property, and company equipment from theft or harm. For everyone's security, including your own, it is essential that you clip your photo I.D. badge to your clothing or wear your badge on a chain around your neck when you are on company property. Carrying your badge in your pocket or purse is not enough. You must display your badge in plain view.

If you have misplaced your badge, please contact me immediately. I will give you a temporary badge and requisition a permanent replacement. I appreciate your cooperation.

1. What is the main topic of the memo? (*What is the memo about?*)
2. What is the main point that the writer is making about that topic?

Use the answer to question 1 and 2 to fill in the *Main Idea* box in the diagram below.

3. What are three main ideas that the memo writer uses to support his main idea?

Fill 3 of the ideas in the *Supporting Details* boxes below.

