

Main Idea and Supporting Details (Plus Some)

PERSUASION: For your English II STAAR essay, you will be writing a PERSUASIVE essay. In order to be persuasive, you as a writer have to convince your reader that your view is the correct view. Remember this term, you will need it!!!

The **topic** or **subject** of your paper is the general thing that your paper is about. For example, if you are writing a PERSUASIVE essay about why people should not smoke, your subject is simply smoking.

Main Idea, also known as the **Controlling Idea**, is defined as the **main** point that is being stated in a speech, paragraph, essay, article, or other work. ***The STAAR could use either of these terms

*it is important to note that a main idea is found as one big main idea for an entire essay, and that there are also smaller main ideas within each paragraph.

In this class, we refer to the main idea that is the big idea for an entire essay as the **THESIS STATEMENT**. This is usually found as the last sentence within your introductory paragraph. This main idea tells you exactly what your entire paper is going to be about.

Main ideas that are found within paragraphs are called **TOPIC SENTENCES**. Topic sentences set up what you are going to cover within that specific paragraph.

After you state your main idea for a paragraph within your topic sentence, you have to back it up with **supporting details**. Supporting details are the smaller details that give your reader more information about the big thing that you are trying to say. In persuasive writing, we see these through our examples. Our examples (supporting details) are evidence for why the main idea is true.

Subject: smoking

Thesis statement: no matter what the case, people should never smoke.

Topic Sentence for body paragraph 1: First, the smell of cigarette smoke is terrible.

Supporting detail: 80% of people asked said they would turn down a date with someone who smells like cigarettes

Topic Sentence for body paragraph 2: Not only is smoking cigarettes a disgusting and smelly habit, its also extremely bad for your health.

Supporting detail: proven to cause cancer, lung disease, heart disease

Topic Sentence for body paragraph 3: Lastly, smoking can get to be very expensive.

Supporting detail: Some states charge over \$10 for a pack

Persuasive Essay Example: DON'T SMOKE!!!

Smoking is one of the top causes of cancer throughout the world. Many people die every day because of their nasty habit. No matter what the case, people should never smoke.

First, the smell of cigarette smoke is terrible. In a recent study of 100 people, more than 80% said that if they were asked out by an attractive person who smelled like cigarettes, they would say no to the date because the smell was off-putting. Smelling good is one of the most important things that a person can do! So if you want a hot date, don't start the disgusting habit of smoking.

Not only is smoking cigarettes a disgusting and smelly habit, it's also extremely bad for your health. It has been proven to cause cancer, lung disease, and heart disease, and to weaken your immune system. Smoking makes it a lot harder to breathe, which means it's more difficult to play sports and get the exercise you need to stay healthy. It is also harmful for those hanging around a smoker, because they breathe the smoky air. Even though most people are aware of how bad smoking is for them, more than 1,000 people die each day from its effects.

Lastly, smoking can get to be very expensive. In some U.S. states like New York and Hawaii, a pack of cigarettes can cost over \$10. If a person smokes a pack a day, that is over \$70 that they are spending just on cigarettes. By the end of the month, the smoker is out quite a bit of money that could have gone toward bills and groceries.

If you want to live longer, don't start smoking! Smoking smells terrible and could lose you quite a few potential dates. If you live long enough or have enough money to go on dates, that is, because smoking is bad for your health, and turns into quite the expensive habit.