

Differentiated

# Main Idea

## TASK CARDS

### Main Idea #1

A blizzard is a weather event that occurs most often during the wintertime. Blizzards occur when there are very low temperatures, high winds, and a severe snowstorm. Oftentimes schools and other workplaces are closed during blizzards, and it can be very dangerous to travel during a blizzard. Blizzards are major snow events!

### Main Idea #2

The Titanic was a massive ship that sank on its maiden (first) voyage in April 1912. The ship was said to be unsinkable, but when it struck an iceberg, part of the ship's hull had holes torn into it. The passengers on board the ship had very little time to exit the ship and many people died. The Titanic sank two hours after it hit the iceberg. The sinking of the ship is still remembered and taught by teachers today.

### Main Idea #3

No matter where you go, you can almost always find a hotel! Whether you are visiting Disney World, the Beach, New York City, or a small town in South Carolina, there is sure to be a hotel that will fit your needs. There is even a hotel made of snow and ice in Sweden! It is unlikely that you would ever need to drive more than twenty minutes to find a hotel room to stay in!

### Main Idea #4

Newborn babies are adorable, but they are a lot of work! Most newborn babies need to be changed every two or three hours around the clock. They need to have their diapers changed often. Sometimes they get confused and cry during the day and stay awake all night. If one in a while, a baby will want to be held. Mom and dad of newborns are often tired because their bundles of joy have so many needs!

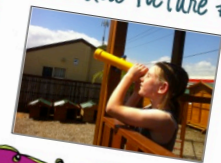
### Main Idea Picture Cards Recording Sheet

Card #	Main Idea Statement	One Detail to Support Main Idea

### Main Idea Picture #5



### Main Idea Picture #6



### Main Idea Picture #7



### Main Idea Picture #8



# Thank You For Your Purchase!

I sincerely hope these are helpful to you and your students! There is an instruction page before both sets of cards to give you an idea of how to use these in your classroom. Have

fun and enjoy!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [teachingwithamountainview@gmail.com](mailto:teachingwithamountainview@gmail.com).

*If you have trouble printing, see a small error, or have any questions, I encourage you to email me or use the "Ask a Question" feature before leaving negative feedback. I will do everything I can to "make it right" as soon as possible! Thanks so much.*

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Please visit my blog for more information on teaching Main Idea!

<http://mountainviewteaching.blogspot.com/2012/11/non-fiction-main-idea.html>

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Please Note: All images on the picture cards are PUBLIC DOMAIN images.



# Main Idea Scenario Task Cards

There are 32 paragraph scenario cards to use for generating and discussing main idea and detail statements. The first 16 are non-fiction based, and the last 16 are fiction/story based. The students read the paragraph and generate a main idea statement (See recording sheet). Students then pull a detail from the paragraph to write one detail that supports the main idea. Take it a step further, and the kids can create a title that belongs with the picture to show their understanding of how titles often support main ideas.

I have included Main Idea Statement Cards at the end of the cards for students who need extra help in determining main idea. Cut out the cards and then have students match the main idea statement to the picture card.

Card #	Main Idea Statement	One Detail to Support Main Idea

Card #	Possible Title for Picture

<p><i>Main Idea Statement</i> The dog wishes he could go outside and play in the snow.</p>	<p><i>Main Idea Statement</i> The sneezing boy is sick.</p>
<p><i>Main Idea Statement</i> The girl is getting ready for a tennis match.</p>	<p><i>Main Idea Statement</i> It is very cold where the girl is, so she is all bundled up!</p>
<p><i>Main Idea Statement</i> The dog is enjoying a day in the sun and water.</p>	<p><i>Main Idea Statement</i> The young girl is spying something from her backyard.</p>
<p><i>Main Idea Statement</i> Mountain climbers ascend a mountain.</p>	<p><i>Main Idea Statement</i> Mom is showing her baby something growing on a tree.</p>



## Main Idea #1

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## Main Idea #3

No matter where you go, you can almost always find a hotel. Whether you are visiting Disney World, the beach, New York City, or a small town in South Carolina, there is sure to be a hotel that will fit your needs. There is even a hotel made of snow and ice in Sweden! It is unlikely that you would ever need to drive more than twenty minutes to find a hotel room for the night.

## Main Idea #4

Newborn babies are adorable, but they are a lot of work! Most newborn babies need to eat every two or three hours around the clock, and they need to have their diapers changed just as often. Sometimes they get confused and sleep during the day and stay awake all night. Every once in a while, a baby will want to be held **all the time!** Moms and dads of newborns are often very tired because their bundles of joy have many needs!



## Main Idea #5

Baking different types of cookies is a favorite hobby of many people. There are so many different types of cookies to bake that the possibilities are almost endless! There are chocolate chip cookies, shortbread cookies, oatmeal raisin cookies, peanut butter cookies, sugar cookies, molasses cookies, and so many more types of cookies to bake!

## Main Idea #6

Although people love watching movies at the theatre, many people enjoy the concession stand even more! There are so many movie theatre treats that go perfectly with a movie. Some people love popcorn, nachos, and a soda, while other people enjoy candy, slushy drinks, and a hot dog. Some people say these things don't taste the same anywhere but the theatre.

## Main Idea #7

Milk is the perfect beverage for many different reasons. Almost all babies begin their lives by drinking milk! You can even add a little bit of chocolate syrup to milk to make chocolate milk. Have you ever dipped an Oreo into milk? It is the best! Milk is also used in many different recipes and to make delicious milkshakes. Our world would be so different without this perfect drink.

## Main Idea #8

Technology has changed a lot in the last one hundred years. One hundred years ago, there were no cell phones, computers, or televisions. Now, almost every home has several phones, computers, and televisions! iPhones and iPads were not even invented until 2007, but now they are all over the world and even in many classrooms! Can you imagine how living one hundred years ago would have been different without all of the advances in technology?

## Main Idea #9

Photography is a very popular hobby, and many people even make a career out of it. Some people call photography an art because there are many different elements to taking fantastic pictures. People who take up photography as a hobby often photograph landscape pictures, pictures of their families, or other fun subjects. Career photographers photograph families, babies, and popular events for pay. Regardless of what they are photographing, taking pictures is a very popular art form.

## Main Idea #10

Taking steps to prevent getting sick is important for you, your friends, and society. It is very easy for germs to spread and cause many people to get sick. Children in schools often become sick because they spend so much time in a small classroom, so it's important to wash your hands many times per day, sanitize your desk at night, and avoid sharing food and drink. At home, you can take vitamins, eat foods high in Vitamin C, and get a lot of rest to avoid getting sick.

## Main Idea #11

If you wear glasses, it is very important to take good care of them. If you are not wearing your glasses, always keep them safely in a case, and make sure to carry a special cleaning cloth with you (using a paper towel or washcloth can put tiny scratches in the lenses). If you notice a lens coming loose, take it to your eye doctor right away. Finally, don't ever share your glasses with anyone so that they stay looking good as new.

## Main Idea #12

Everywhere you go, there are advertisements trying to get you to buy or do something. As you drive down the street, you may see a billboard advertising a hotel or restaurant. When you are shopping at the mall, signs out front of stores will alert you to special sales. If you listen to the radio while you're doing your homework, a commercial will inform you about a show coming to town soon! We can't forget about television advertising—commercials! Almost every single television channel has commercials between their shows. Advertisements have become a part of the American culture.

## Main Idea #13

Lightning is an incredibly dangerous act of nature. If you hear thunder or see lightning, you should find shelter right away. It is nearly impossible to predict the exact location of a strike, making it even more dangerous. The temperature of a lightning strike can be more than 50,000 degrees, which is as hot as the surface of the sun! Lightning kills over 70 people per year, making it one of the most dangerous natural weather occurrences.

## Main Idea #14

What hobbies do you enjoy during winter? Many people enjoy skiing or snowboarding during the winter season. People from ages 1-101 can participate in skiing or snowboarding, and once you learn how to do it, it is like walking. You **never** forget! Flying down the snowy mountains at top speed is a thrill, and riding the chair lifts up the mountains allows you to see the beauty of nature. Skiing and snowboarding are favorite winter sports for many people.

## Main Idea #15

Deciding to plant a garden is a very big undertaking. First of all, you must find out which types of plants are best suited to grow in your climate. Second, you must prepare the ground and make sure no wild animals can get to your garden and damage it. Third, it is important to carefully plant the seeds or flowers and water them just the right amount. Finally, you must make sure your garden gets just the right amount of sun to keep your plants and flowers alive! Planting a garden can be a complicated job!

## Main Idea #16

At some point, most children experiment with at least one type of sport. There are different types of sports, like team sports or individual sports. There are seasonal sports and year-round sports. There are sports with balls and baskets and nets, and there are sports where you use nothing but your own body! There are variations of sports, like sprints and cross country in running, or the different strokes in swimming. There are so many different types of sports to try!



## Main Idea #17

Macy merrily skipped down the long row of rides. This was her first trip to the carnival, and she was in awe of the sights, sounds, and food! There were so many rides with flashing lights, the games with the workers yelling "Step Right Up!" and the rows and rows of deliciously fried foods to eat. Her eyes grew big as she saw a man on stilts walking toward her. She nearly dropped her ice cream cone when she saw the Ferris Wheel stop, leaving people laughing and happily screaming at the very top. Macy wondered what she would see next!

## Main Idea #18

Trenton's feet were pounding against the pavement with every step he took. His heart raced and he breathed deeply as he picked up speed. The beat of the music coming out of his headphones helped him to keep going. Sweat dripped down his forehead, and his legs burned like fire. Just when he thought he couldn't run any more, the finish line came in to view. He could hear his dad shouting his name and see his mom jumping up and down cheering him on. He picked up speed, and before he knew it, he plowed through the finish line, breaking the ribbon and winning first place!

## Main Idea #19

As soon as Shane drifted off to sleep, he was transported into a faraway land. In his dream, he was surrounded by fairytale characters and people from the movie that he had watched just before bed. The other characters couldn't see him, but he could see them and hear **everything** they were saying! Just as he was beginning to enjoy the fantasy dream, a dragon came swooping down upon him. He startled awake and sat up straight in his bed with his heart pounding. He was almost afraid to go back to sleep after a strange dream like that!

## Main Idea #20

Kate looked down at her plate in disgust. She couldn't believe her mom had made a dinner with every single one of her least favorite ingredients. There was tomato in the salad and blue cheese dressing on top. She put mushrooms on the chicken, and brussel sprouts on the side. To make matters worse, dessert was tiramisu, and Kate **hated** tiramisu! This was the worst meal ever.

## Main Idea #21

Beth tapped on the window next to her front door. She cupped her hands around her eyes and tried to peer inside to get someone's attention. All she could see were her house keys sitting right where she had left them on the kitchen counter. Nobody came to the door, so she checked to see if the back door was unlocked. No luck! Her fingers were getting cold and she was starting to shiver. She took her backpack off and tried climbing up to the lowest window, but she couldn't reach it. She was sure she would be stuck outside for hours!

## Main Idea #22

Jesse had never been on a plane before, and this would be his first time leaving the state. He was looking forward to seeing the ocean for the first time, but he wasn't sure what to expect! Jesse didn't know how to board the plane or how to get off. He had never stayed in a hotel or had to ride in a taxi cab. This would be his first time in an unknown place, and he was very nervous!

## Main Idea #23

Eva's mother had told her to clean her room before her birthday party. Mom had made it clear: she needed to clear up space for more gifts before she could bring any more into the house. She spent the whole day organizing her toys so she was sure to have room. All of her dolls went into one bucket, all of her puzzles went into another. She put all of her stuffed animals on her bed, and lined up her toy cars and trains all around her room. By the time her party started, her room was spotless and organized!

## Main Idea #24

Jared was so excited to open his last gift on Christmas morning. It was a brand new iPad! He couldn't believe his eyes. He spent all day setting it up, downloading free apps, and loading his favorite new music on to it. That night, he practiced taking pictures with the camera, and he watched a movie he had downloaded earlier in the day. He was so thrilled to have his very own iPad!

## Main Idea #25

Dalton had been shopping for hours, but he couldn't believe his eyes when he looked at the receipt. He knew he hadn't spent THAT much money. He scanned the receipt, looking at the price of each item. He had bought several Nintendo DS games, a new Monopoly board, and...there it was! They had charged him \$70.89 for the pack of Angry Birds trading cards that was only supposed to be \$7.89. He went straight back to the store, and they refunded his money. He couldn't believe they had made such a big mistake, but he was grateful he noticed.

## Main Idea #26

Grayson and his Boy Scout Troop arrived at the campsite just before sunset. They had gotten a late start and left over two hours after they had originally planned. As the sun went down, the troop scrambled to put up the tent. Soon, it was dark, and the car was not unpacked, and the tent was not assembled. This was not the best start to the camping trip...

## Main Idea #27

Annie's mother was surprised at how many new words her baby was learning. Annie had just turned a year old, and she could already say, "uh oh!" and "all done." When all of her food was gone and she wanted more, she would shout "More!" She started to repeat animal sounds, and could even say "mom" and "dad." She couldn't wait to hear what word she would learn next!

## Main Idea #28

John had spent the day outside collecting bugs. He couldn't wait to show his mom the neat roly-poly bugs, the flying ladybugs, and the hopping crickets. He had them safely collected in a glass cup with a piece of plastic wrap over the top. As he galloped through the door to show his mom, he tripped and fell, shattering the glass and sending the bugs flying across the floor. Mom ran to him and screamed... that wasn't how he had planned to show them to her!



## Main Idea #29

It felt like the longest day ever. Emily's mom would be picking her up from school ten minutes early to go to the Taylor Swift concert. She couldn't wait to find their seats, which were only three rows from the stage. One Direction was performing right before Taylor Swift, and they were her second favorite band. She knew it would be a night to remember...but first she just had to get through the day at school!

## Main Idea #30

Bailey had been waiting patiently in line for Magic Mountain at Disney World for two hours. Just a few more minutes, and it would be his turn to ride the ride! Just when it was his turn to hop on, the ride operator told them that there was a problem with the ride, and it was shutting down for the day. He couldn't believe he had wasted two hours waiting in line to ride a ride that wasn't working!

## Main Idea #31

Bella's mom had been rushing around for days trying to find the perfect outfits for their family pictures. Then she had to make sure all of the kids had done their hair and had matching bows. Her mom set up a picnic scene for the pictures, and she made the kids practice their best smiles. It was quite a job just to get ready for family pictures!

## Main Idea #32

Thronges of people lined the streets. It was Thanksgiving Day, and they were all there to see the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Float after float passed by, and each one seemed to be bigger and better than the one before it. Every once in a while, celebrities would stop and sing a song, or bands would stop and play a tune. There was so much to see at the parade, and it all ended with a visit from Mr. Claus!

# Main Idea Task Cards Recording Sheet

Card #	Main Idea Statement	One Detail to Support Main Idea

# Main Idea Task Cards Recording Sheet

Card #	Possible Title for Paragraph



### Main Idea Statement

Blizzards are major snow events in the winter.

### Main Idea Statement

The Titanic sunk on its maiden voyage.

### Main Idea Statement

You can find a hotel to stay in anywhere you go.

### Main Idea Statement

Newborn babies are a lot of work!

### Main Idea Statement

There are many different types of cookies to bake.

### Main Idea Statement

The food at the movie theatre is great!

### Main Idea Statement

Milk is a very important drink!

### Main Idea Statement

Technology is very different now than it was 100 years ago!

## Main Idea Statement

Many people love photography as a hobby or as a job.

## Main Idea Statement

There are many things you can do to prevent getting sick.

## Main Idea Statement

It is important to take care of glasses.

## Main Idea Statement

There are advertisements everywhere you look!

## Main Idea Statement

Lightning is very dangerous.

## Main Idea Statement

Skiing and snowboarding are popular winter hobbies.

## Main Idea Statement

Planting a garden is a lot of work!

## Main Idea Statement

There is a wide variety of sports to try.

## Main Idea Statement

Macy was in awe of the many sights, sounds, and foods at the carnival!

## Main Idea Statement

Trenton almost gave up running his race, but he didn't, and he won!

## Main Idea Statement

Shane had a fun dream that turned scary!

## Main Idea Statement

Kate's mom had used all of her least favorite foods to make dinner.

## Main Idea Statement

Beth forgot her key, and when she got home from school, she was locked out.

## Main Idea Statement

Jesse was going on his first vacation and was nervous.

## Main Idea Statement

Eva spent the day cleaning and organizing her room.

## Main Idea Statement

Jared got a new iPad for Christmas



## Main Idea Statement

The store charged Dalton too much for his Angry Birds trading cards.

## Main Idea Statement

The Boy Scout troop didn't have time to get prepared before it got dark.

## Main Idea Statement

Annie was learning many new words each day.

## Main Idea Statement

John couldn't wait to show his mom the bugs he had collected.

## Main Idea Statement

Emily had to get through the longest day ever before the Taylor Swift concert.

## Main Idea Statement

Bailey waited in line for a ride that he would never get to ride!

## Main Idea Statement

Family pictures took a lot of organization and work!

## Main Idea Statement

There was so much to see at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

# Main Idea Picture Task Cards

There are 20 picture cards to use for generating and discussing main idea statements. The students look at picture and generate a main idea statement as they perceive it (See recording sheet). Students then use a detail from the picture, or from their perception of the picture, to write one detail that could support the main idea. Take it a step further, and the kids can create a title that belongs with the picture to show their understanding of how titles often support main ideas.

I have included Main Idea Statement Cards at the end of the pictures for students who need extra help in determining main idea. Cut out the cards and then have students match the main idea statement to the picture card.

Card #	Main Idea Statement	One Detail to Support Main Idea

Card #	Possible Title for Picture

<p><i>Main Idea Statement</i> The dog wishes he could go outside and play in the snow.</p>	<p><i>Main Idea Statement</i> The sneezing boy is sick.</p>
<p><i>Main Idea Statement</i> The girl is getting ready for a tennis match.</p>	<p><i>Main Idea Statement</i> It is very cold where the girl is, so she is all bundled up!</p>
<p><i>Main Idea Statement</i> The dog is enjoying a day in the sun and water.</p>	<p><i>Main Idea Statement</i> The young girl is spying something from her backyard.</p>
<p><i>Main Idea Statement</i> Mountain climbers ascend a mountain.</p>	<p><i>Main Idea Statement</i> Mom is showing her baby something growing on a tree.</p>

# Main Idea Picture #1



# Main Idea Picture #2



# Main Idea Picture #3



# Main Idea Picture #4





## Main Idea Picture #5



## Main Idea Picture #6



## Main Idea Picture #7



## Main Idea Picture #8





# Main Idea Picture #9



# Main Idea Picture #10



# Main Idea Picture #11



# Main Idea Picture #12





## Main Idea Picture #13



## Main Idea Picture #14



## Main Idea Picture #15



## Main Idea Picture #16

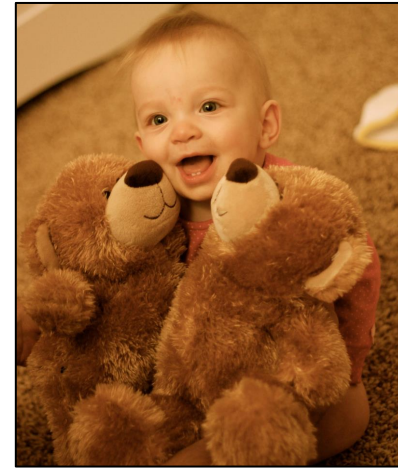




## Main Idea Picture #17



## Main Idea Picture #18



## Main Idea Picture #19



## Main Idea Picture #20



# Main Idea Picture Cards Recording Sheet

Card #	Main Idea Statement	One Detail to Support Main Idea



# Main Idea Picture Cards Recording Sheet

Card #	Possible Title for Picture

### Main Idea Statement

The dog wishes he could go outside and play in the snow.

### Main Idea Statement

The sneezing boy is sick.

### Main Idea Statement

The girl is getting ready for a tennis match.

### Main Idea Statement

It is very cold where the girl is, so she is all bundled up!

### Main Idea Statement

The dog is enjoying a day in the sun and water.

### Main Idea Statement

The young girl is spying something from her backyard.

### Main Idea Statement

Mountain climbers ascend a mountain.

### Main Idea Statement

Mom is showing her baby something growing on a tree.

### Main Idea Statement

A truck crashed into a ditch.

### Main Idea Statement

A team celebrates a victory!

### Main Idea Statement

A man goes grocery shopping for unhealthy food!

### Main Idea Statement

The big dog is curious about the new puppy.

### Main Idea Statement

A boy catches his first fish while fishing with his dad.

### Main Idea Statement

Kids work on arts and crafts at school.

### Main Idea Statement

Big lines of people wait in line for security at the airport.

### Main Idea Statement

Crowds are gathered for a big baseball game!

## Main Idea Statement

Friends prepare for a fun game of basketball!

## Main Idea Statement

A small baby loves her stuffed animals.

## Main Idea Statement

Two people enjoy a sleigh ride in the snow.

## Main Idea Statement

It took hours to arrive home due to the traffic jam!