



**International Center
for Leadership
in Education**



Gold Seal Lesson:

Copernicus Education Gateway

Author(s): AnnMarie D'Addio			Lesson Title: Getting the Main Idea			
Grade Span			ICLE Application Model			
K-4 XX	5-8	9-12	A	B	C XX	D

Instructional Focus:

Reading – Students read a variety of grade level materials, applying strategies appropriate to various situations

Writing – Students write for a variety of purposes and audiences with sophistication and complexity appropriate to the grade level.

Performance Task

Prepare a brief paragraph. Read the paragraph to the students or have a student read it aloud. Discuss with the students what they learn from the paragraph. On sentence strips have three of the details from the paragraph written and on a fourth strip write the main idea sentence. Ask the students to read the strips and choose one of the four that tells what the whole paragraph was about. The students write the selected sentence on paper or individual white boards. Ask for the choice to be shared and discuss why the choice is correct or incorrect. Then have a second brief paragraph prepared and have students find the sentence that tells the main idea. Highlight it with one color, highlight details that support the main idea with another color. Finally give students a paragraph to read independently and have students write the main idea sentence individually and share and defend when they are all ready.

This activity contributes to comprehension and also prepares students to take multiple choice reading tests.

ICLE Essential Skills

Develop a process for understanding and remembering information. (ela 8)

Read for main idea first and then for details. (ela 49)

Understand ways and author uses language and text characteristics to aid comprehension. (ela 80)

Scoring Guide:

Checklist: Rate each characteristic 3-1 3= excellent 2= satisfactory 1= unsatisfactory

Characteristics	Score
Identifies Main Idea	_____
Identifies Details	_____
Participates in discussion	_____
Can verbalize strategy to identify main idea	_____

Keywords

English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science
Reading Comprehension	Algebra	Earth Science
Writing	Geometry	Life Science
Communications	Statistics	Chemistry
Literature	Calculus	Physics
Other Strategies	Trigonometry	Other
	Other	