

Paragraph Unit

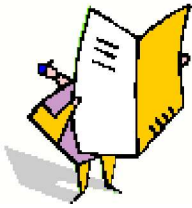
Lesson 5 Supporting or Detail Sentences
Tennessee Standard - 6th Grade

Assessed - Choose the supporting sentence that best fits the context and flow of ideas in a paragraph.

Rule

The first sentence of a paragraph tells the main idea. It is called the topic sentence. The sentences that follow the topic sentence explain or tell more about the main idea. These sentences are called supporting or detail sentences.

Read the following paragraph and discuss.



Have you ever wondered if Zero's inability to read is a problem that others in the United States face? According to the CIA World Factbook, only 97% of adults in the United States are literate. Fifty-one countries in our world have a higher literacy rate than that of the United States. The United States Department of Labor states that 50% of the unemployed are functionally illiterate. The United States Department of Education states that 44% of American adults do not read one book in the course of a year. The inability to read is a major problem for many Americans.

Questions:

1. Why do these sentences make a paragraph?
2. What is the topic sentence of the paragraph? How are you able to identify the topic sentence?
3. Read the four detail sentences.
4. What is the purpose of the detail sentences?

Activity 1

Write yes or no to tell whether each sentence supports the main idea.



Main Idea: Ways Americans Can Improve the Literacy Rate

1. _____ Based on a study by the Literacy Volunteers of American reading scores can improve by one grade level with 35 to 45 hours of tutoring.
2. _____ The United States Department of Education states that the average kindergarten student has seen more than 5,000 hours of television.
3. _____ The American Council of Life Insurance say people with less than 6 years of schooling are 4 times more likely to be receiving public assistance than those attaining 6 years or more.

4. _____ According to a study made by the National Assessment for Education Progress of 21-25 year olds, 80% couldn't read a bus schedule, 73% couldn't understand a newspaper story, 63% couldn't follow written map directions, and 23% couldn't locate the gross pay-to-date amount on a paycheck stub.

5. _____ The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2000 national reading assessment of fourth-grade students found that reading for fun had a positive relationship to performance on the NAEP reading scores.

6. _____ The U. S. Department of Education's Early Childhood Longitudinal Study found that children who were read to at least three times a week as they entered kindergarten had significant increases in skill mastery in the reading content areas over the children who were not read to



Main Idea: Defining Various Types of Books

1. _____ Paul Bunyan, Mike Fink, and Swamp Angel are fun tall tales to read.

2. _____ Mysteries are fictional stories which can not be explained or a crime that is not solved until the end of the story.

3. _____ Historical stories take place in a particular time period in the past.

4. _____ Poetry collections are usually found in the non-fiction section of the library under the Dewey Decimal Classification numbers 808 - 811.

5. _____ Students enjoy reading futuristic or science fiction stories.

6. _____ An autobiography is the story of a real person's life, written or told by that person.

Activity 2

Take the outline you made from Lesson 2 and the graphic organizer with topic sentences you wrote in Lesson 3. Now you are ready to create the next part of your paragraphs. For each set of details listed under a topic write a good detail sentence.

Source of Information:

Your Nation <http://www.your-nation.com/>

Literacy Statistics for the United States <http://www.main.nc.us/literacy/statistics.htm>

National Institute for Literacy http://www.nifl.gov/nifl/facts/facts_overview.htm