Main Idea

Objective:

To identify the main ideas and supporting details of a text.

Vocabulary:

Main idea – most important thought of a text or section of a text, what an author wants the reader to understand

Supporting details – facts, examples, or reasons that support the main idea

Sufficient – adequate, satisfactory

Materials:

- ☑ Focus Prompt Wheel 2
- ☑ Model Text Easel, page 2
- ☑ Student Annotation Kits
- ☑ Student provided materials: pencil and journal/notebook paper
- ☑ Embracing a New Way to Learn reproducible, page 9
- ☑ Multiple Main Ideas blackline master, page 10

First Read

Read the Focus Prompt: *What is the main idea of the text?*

Annotate: Have students mark the sentence that best represents the main idea of the entire text using pink highlighters.

Reflect: Discuss students' responses to the Focus Prompt and record answers on the Model Text Easel.
Optional: Have students journal responses in a journal or on notebook paper.

↪ *Sample Response: Schools should use tablets instead of textbooks as their main educational tools.*

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Remediate: Guide students by asking, "*What is the main topic of the text? What does the author want the reader to understand about the main topic?*"

Second Read

Read the Focus Prompt: *What are the main ideas for each body paragraph in the text?*

Annotate: Have students mark the sentences that best represent the main idea of the two body paragraphs using green highlighters.

Reflect: Discuss students' responses to the Focus Prompt and record answers on the Model Text Easel.
Optional: Have students journal responses in a journal or on notebook paper.

↪ *Sample Response: The main idea of paragraph two is that tablets are not that expensive when all of the factors are considered. The main idea of paragraph three is that tablets offer more learning tools to support various learning styles.*

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Remediate: Have students use the Multiple Main Ideas blackline master to record their notes and see the connection between the main ideas of the text.

Third Read

Read the Focus Prompt: *What details are used to support the main ideas of the body paragraphs? Are the supporting details sufficient to develop the main ideas?*

Annotate: Have students mark supporting details that support the main ideas of the body paragraphs with blue highlighters.

Reflect: Discuss students' responses to the Focus Prompt and record answers on the Model Text Easel.
Optional: Have students journal responses in a journal or on notebook paper.

↪ *Sample Response: Details that support the main idea of paragraph two include that moving to tablets can actually save schools money, tablets become more affordable each year, and E-textbooks don't lose their value or become outdated like paper textbooks. Details that support the main idea of paragraph three include that tablets have interactive elements and support more learning styles. The details are sufficient to express the main ideas because they cite statistical data and provide clear examples for the reader to understand.*

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Remediate: Have students use the Multiple Main Ideas blackline master to organize their thoughts.

Enrichment: Have students create a new main idea statement with the same topic of the text. Have students generate at least two specific main idea statements for body paragraphs that would support the overall main idea.

Embracing a New Way to Learn

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Paper textbooks are an outdated way to learn, and schools should not sink any more money into these obsolete educational tools. Tablets are definitely the trend of the future. They are where school districts should be directing their budgets.

Purchasing classroom tablets is actually not as expensive as you might think. This is especially true when compared to paper textbooks. According to a 2012 news release by the Federal Communications Commission, switching to E-textbooks can save schools between $250–$1,000 per student each year. Unlike paper texts, they get more affordable each year. In 2011, the average tablet cost nearly $500. However, in 2015, that cost was closer to $260. You must also factor depreciation into this cost. Paper texts will simply lose their value more quickly. The pages of books can easily be ripped or marked up. And, of course, information in paper texts becomes outdated quickly. With tablets, students always have the most updated information, and don't have to deal with graffiti or damage from past years.

Tablets also offer a wider range of learning tools. A textbook, of course is just a collection of static words and images. Tablets, on the other hand, can offer audio, video, and other interactive elements. The more interactive the text, the more engaged a student will be. So, of course, there are many more ways to learn on a tablet. This supports a wider range of learning styles, which is important for reaching more students, as so many learn differently.

Tablets are simply a smarter choice than textbooks. They're more affordable and getting less expensive every year. They're more up-to-date and more engaging, overall. School districts should stop throwing away money on paper texts. Tablets are the future of textbooks.

Multiple Main Ideas

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Title: _____

Overall Main Idea

Main Idea	Main Idea

Supporting Detail	Supporting Detail

Supporting Detail	Supporting Detail