

What is a central idea?

A *central idea* is a main point that the author is making (also called a *main idea* or a *key idea*). In other words, a central idea is what the article is mostly about. You can think of a central idea as a thesis statement: one sentence that states what the article is about. A text could have more than one central idea.

A central idea can always be supported with details from the text. **HINT:** When you search for central ideas, be sure to pay special attention to titles, subheadings, and the first and last sentences of each section.