


Use plenty of details to support the main idea in your writing.



The diagram in the thought bubble shows a central circle labeled "Main Idea" connected to four surrounding circles, each labeled "Detail".

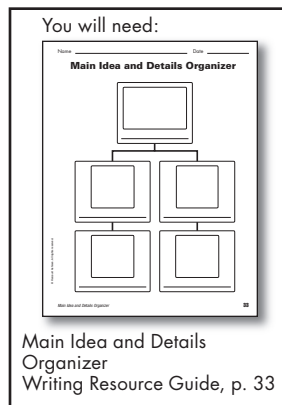
	Colonial Jobs
●	My family just returned from Colonial Williamsburg. I was surprised by the different jobs people had in the past.
●	While we were there, I watched a silversmith heat metal so hot that it became a liquid. Then he poured the metal into a mold to
●	make a bowl...

1. Build Writing Skills

Teach Organizational Pattern:
Main Idea and Details

A. **Restate Main Idea and Details** Remind students that good writing focuses on a main idea that says something important and specific about a topic. All details in the piece should support the main idea. Also, each paragraph of the writing must have its own main idea, supported by details. *Today we are going to focus on writing about a main idea and supporting it with details.*

B. **Focus on the Visual** *Where does the writer state the main idea? (second sentence) What details does the writer use to support the main idea of the second paragraph? (silversmith heated metal, molded it into a bowl)*



2. Write and Analyze

Organizational Pattern: Main Idea and Details

A. **Write Texts** Students should focus on creating or revising pieces that have a clear main idea and supporting details.

Below Level	On Level	Above Level
Review students' Main Idea and Details Organizers together. Ask questions to help students decide on a main idea. Discuss with them possible details to support their chosen main idea.	Have students review their pieces to ensure all details support the main idea, which should be stated clearly in the opening paragraph. Suggest deleting or moving unsupportive details.	Suggest revision points to improve flow and clarity. Challenge students to support and elaborate on the main ideas for each of their body paragraphs.

B. **Support Writing** When students are finished, ask:

- What does your main idea sentence tell about your topic?
- What kinds of details support your main idea?

3. Support Writing Independence

- A. **Write on My Own** In a conference, ask:
- What is the main idea of your writing?
 - What will I learn about your topic by reading your piece?
 - What are three important details that support your main idea? Why are they important?
- B. **Monitor Learning** Use the rubric below to assess students' writing for main idea and details.
- C. **Next Step** Continue providing small group support for main idea and details for students who score 1 or 2.

Organizational Pattern: Main Idea and Details

1. Little Evidence	Student's writing does not contain a main idea or relevant details. Details are sparse and often irrelevant or unsupportive.
2. Some Evidence	Student's writing contains a main idea and details, but some details may be weak or off-topic. Writing is generally focused and coherent.
3. Clear Evidence	Student's writing is clearly organized into a main idea and supporting details. Details show a strong focus on the main idea. Writing is smooth and coherent.