



Worksheet for Lesson 7

So Just What Are You Trying to Say?— Determining the Main Idea

The Denim *Beret*:
a writing school
for teens

NAME:

DATE:

Complete the worksheet below using a vivid *green*, *blue*, or *purple* font color. Add lines as needed.

Part 1: Below is a series of topics that might be appropriate for an essay. Pretend you will write these essays, and develop a possible main idea for each one. Each one should be 1-2 sentences.

1) Topic: the worst day of my life

Main idea:

2) Topic: people who have made the world a better place

Main idea:

3) Topic: the effects of eating too much sugar

Main idea:

4) Topic: why smokers should stop throwing their cigarette butts on the ground

Main idea:

5) Topic: compare and contrast dry amusement parks and water amusement parks

Main idea:

Part 2: Choose one of the two prompts below. Then choose one brainstorming method from lesson 6 and brainstorm for a pretend essay. If you choose mindmapping or the topic funnel, be sure to do your brainstorming in your writing notebook; then scan and insert/share the page. Freewriting and listmaking can be typed below or written in your notebook and then scanned. When you have chosen your topic, develop a possible main idea in 1-2 complete sentences. Do not write the paper.

Prompts:

- Describe your favorite vacation spot. Explain why other people should try it.
- If you could change any one thing in the world, what would it be and why?

Brainstorming:

Final topic:

Main idea: