

# Supporting Details



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# Identifying Supporting Details

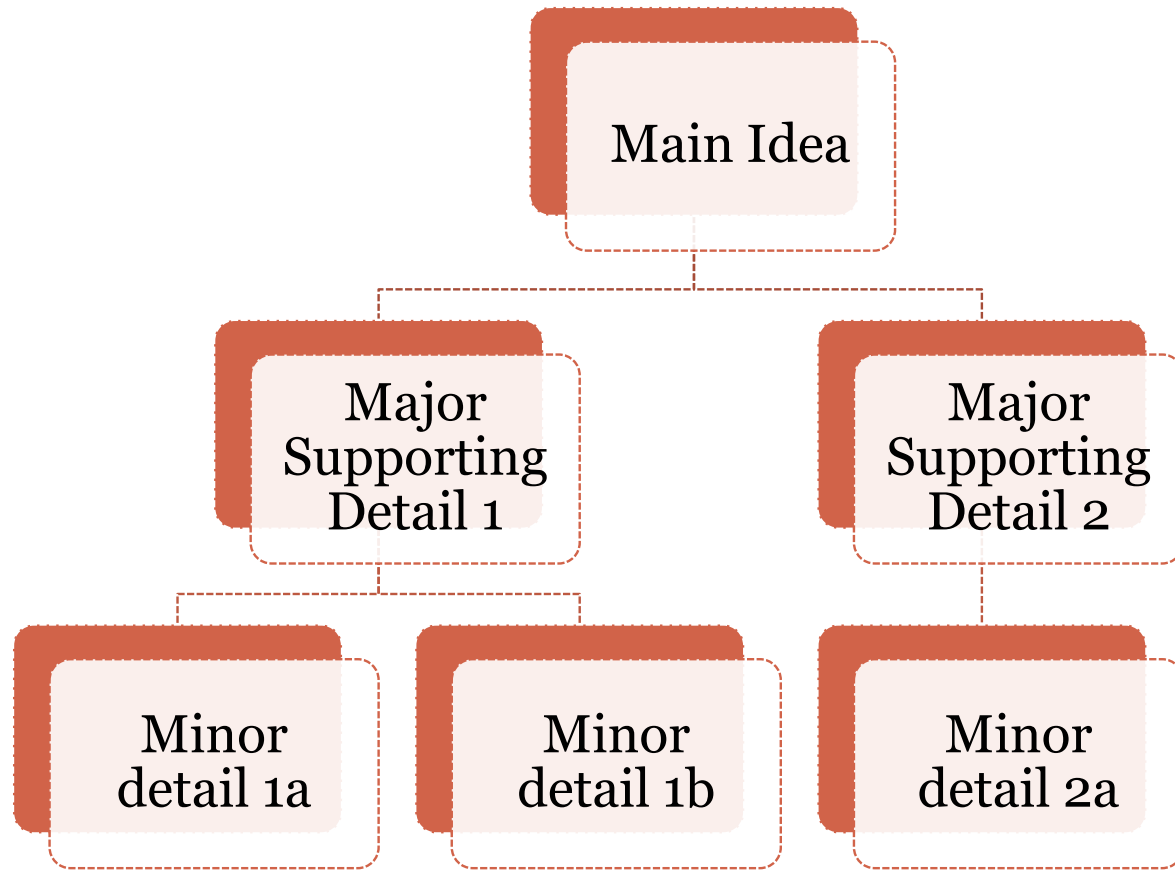


**Supporting Details – additional information that helps you understand the main idea completely.**

- Explain, illustrate and prove the main idea
- Include examples, descriptions, characteristics, steps, places, names, dates, statistics, reasons and results
- Supporting details are specific
- Major supporting details directly explain the main idea
- Minor supporting details give more information about the major ones

*Comprehension Monitoring Question: What additional information does the author provide to help me understand the main idea completely?*

# Diagram



# Method for Identifying Supporting Details



- Identify the topic of the passage
- Find or formulate the main idea
- Rephrase the main idea statement as a question that is answered by the supporting sentences

## Example

Main Idea: Pesticides can have negative effects.

Supporting Detail Question: What are some negative effects that pesticides can have?

# Example 1



**American colleges and universities have played an unusually vital role in our musical culture.** They have trained and employed many of our leading composers, performers, and scholars. Music courses have expanded the horizons and interests of countless students. And since the 1950s, many universities have sponsored performing groups specializing in twentieth-century music. In addition, they have housed most of the electronic music studios.

# Supporting Detail Question



- *How* have American colleges and universities played a vital role in our musical culture?

# Diagram of Example 1



American colleges and universities have played an unusually vital role in our musical culture.

Trained and employed people

Expanded students' horizons and interests in music courses

Sponsored performing groups

Housed electronic music studios

composers

performers

scholars

Since 1950s

20<sup>th</sup> c. music

## Example 2



### Water

**Water has no nutritional value, yet it is a very important food component.** It is used to transport nutrients to the cells and to remove cellular waste products. In addition, it acts as a medium for digestion, regulates body temperature, and helps cushion the vital organs. An inadequate water intake will restrict the function of all body systems. Finally, water and some of the chemicals it carries are responsible for bodily structure, since, on average, 60 percent of the body is water.

# Supporting Detail Question



- *In what way* is water a very important food component?

# Diagram of Example 2



Water has no nutritional value, yet it is a very important food component.

- Transports nutrients to cells
- Removes cellular waste
- Acts as a medium for digestion
- Regulates body temperature
- Helps cushion vital organs
- Inadequate intake restricts functions of all body systems
- Partly responsible for body structure
  - Body is 60 % water

# Review: Identifying Supporting Details



- **What are supporting details?**
  - *additional information the author gives to explain the main idea*
- **Are supporting details general or specific?**
  - *specific (they include examples, facts, data, and so on)*
- **What is the difference between major and minor details?**
  - *major details directly explain the main idea*
  - *minor details explain the major details*
- **To determine the supporting details, what should you ask yourself?**
  - *what additional information does the author provide to help me understand the main idea completely?*
- **What is a method to help identify the supporting details?**
  - *turn the main idea statement into a question answered by the supporting sentences in the passage*