



Sunnyside News Desk

Mission: You are the editor of The Sunnyside Sun. Three stories are ready to print, but they need headlines. A great headline captures the MAIN idea, not just a detail. Pick the best headlines, then write your own.

Big question: How can we identify and state the main idea of an informational text?

★ Warm-up: Headline makeover

Improve each weak headline.

"Dogs" (article about a dog shelter finding homes for 100 pets) ✓ **"Shelter Finds Homes for 100 Dogs."**

Is "It was sunny" a good headline for a story about a charity race? ✓ **No, it is a detail, not the main idea.**

Key vocabulary

Headline	The title of a news article that tells the main idea.
Main idea	What a text is mostly about.
Detail	A smaller piece of information that supports the main idea.
Editor	The person who checks and improves writing.

1 Box 1

All the stories

In the simulator: Pick the best headline for all three stories.

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Editor's rule

Sort the headlines for Story 3.

Sort: Robot Helper Makes Library Books Easier to Find • Library Is Open Tuesdays • Robots Are Scary • Page Has a Touch Screen

Main idea	Just a detail	Opinion or off-topic
Robot Helper Makes Library Books Easier to Find	Library Is Open Tuesdays Page Has a Touch Screen	Robots Are Scary

3 Box 3

Write a headline

Write your OWN headline for Story 2 (5–10 words) that captures the main idea.

Look for: Includes who; Includes what changed; at least 5 words

4 Box 4

Main idea statement

Write one sentence that states the main idea of Story 1 and include ONE key detail.

Look for: Names the garden or food; Includes the donation; a number from the simulator; at least 12 words

5 Box 5

Legend: lead sentence Legend only

Reporters start with a "lead" that answers who, what, when, and where. Write a lead sentence for Story 3.

Look for: Where; What; When; at least 15 words



Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How can we identify and state the main idea of an informational text?

Look for: The main idea is what the whole text is mostly about. A strong headline (or main idea statement) covers the whole article, not just one detail, and doesn't add opinions or off-topic facts.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	1I6-E
 Investigator	1BV-I
 Legend	1AT-L



Watch for these misconceptions

- "The main idea is always the first sentence." It can be anywhere or not stated at all.
- "The most interesting detail is the main idea." The main idea is the point the details support.
- "Texts only have one structure." Authors often mix structures; look for the main one.