

# NEW STUDENT & RETENTION PROGRAMS

● ● ● ● SOUTHERN MISS

## Top 8 Tips for Finding Main Ideas

Unsure if you are identifying the main ideas in course content? Here are 8 tips to help you figure out the main ideas!

1. When reading your textbook, main points are often the first sentences in each paragraph in the article.
2. Main ideas are also found in the last sentences of a paragraph. The main idea can be expressed as a summary of the information in the paragraph.
3. Look at the learning objectives in the beginning of each chapter in your textbook. Then, look through the chapter to find the sections that teach those learning objectives.
4. When reading your textbook, main ideas will often be bolded, italicized, underlined, or written in the margins.
5. When going over class PowerPoints, main topics will usually have multiple slides and the teacher will spend more time teaching these slides than others.
6. Sometimes the main idea of a chapter is implied. After reading through the chapter, ask yourself, "What is the point of what I just read?"
7. Go over your notes from class and pick out any topics that you have many notes on; this can indicate a main idea.
8. If you are ever unsure if you have identified the main idea, ask a professor what the main topics were.

source: [https://www.ccri.edu/advising/success\\_links/mainideas.html](https://www.ccri.edu/advising/success_links/mainideas.html)

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