

Topic sentence(s): 1 _____

Main idea: Our environment consists of all the things surrounding or influencing us in any way.

1. [1] As early as 1908, Thomas Alva Edison shot a picture of Frankenstein and a film about a manmade monster (The *Golem*) appeared prior to World War I. [2] Throughout the twenties, a number of German directors produced some classic horror films, among them *Nosferatu*, a brilliant interpretation of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. [3] By 1930, the German horror film was in decline, and Hollywood producers discovered that the public would pay to be frightened. [4] In 1930, Tod Browning directed *Dracula*, a box-office blockbuster. [5] The history of horror films is **almost as long** as the history of film **itself**.²¹

Topic sentence(s): _____

Main idea: _____

2. [1] Westerners visiting India are often astonished by the sight of stray cows wandering in and out of markets or browsing in carefully cultivated gardens, apparently a nuisance to the local populace. [2] But, in fact, these cows are anything but unwanted intruders. [3] On the contrary, the Indians

²¹Flemming, *Reading for Results*, p. 139.

consider them sacred, and their presence is encouraged. [4] Cows are free to gather at the edges of highways even if they occasionally produce traffic snarls. [5] They are permitted to wander along railroad tracks and allowed to munch on grass in the middle of busy intersections. [6] Younger cows are decorated with garlands of flowers and treated like members of the family. [7] Even the older ones are taken care of, boarded in homes especially designed for aging cows.²²

Topic sentence(s): _____

Main idea: _____

3. [1] Some scientific discoveries happen through pure accident. [2] For example, in the seventeenth century, sailors aboard ship for long periods of time frequently suffered from muscle weakness and unexplained bleeding. [3] Occasionally, the mysterious disease proved fatal, until it was discovered that those sailors who ate lemons or limes did not get the disease--or else suffered from a milder form of it. [4] As a result, British navy officials passed a law requiring that every ship provide lemons and limes for the crew to add to its diet. [5] Eventually, scientists discovered that the vitamin C contained in the fruit prevented the disease we now know as *scurvy*.²³

²² Ibid., p. 141.

²³ Ibid., p. 143.

Topic sentence(s): _____

Main idea: _____

4. [1] If you wish to do well on your final, it is not enough to review just before the examination. [2] You should also review at stated intervals during the semester. [3] Each day review the previous lesson. [4] At the end of the week, review the week's work. [5] And when you have finished a given unit, review that unit. [6] Then, just before the final, review the whole subject.²⁴

Topic sentence(s): _____

Main idea: _____

5. [1] My freedom ends where another people's begins. [2] What does this statement mean? [3] It means that I am **free** to do what I choose so long as my action does not harm someone else. [4] I am free to say **what** I please, but what I say must not slander my neighbor or he may sue me. [5] I may play loud rock on my stereo. [6] But if I live in an apartment, I may not be allowed this privilege after certain hours. [7] There may be a rule

²⁴ Sherbourne, *Toward Reading Comprehension*, p. 172.

against it to protect my neighbor from annoyance. [8] I may be free to smoke a cigarette, but because free to smoke while sitting in certain seats in a plane or in the front seats of some buses.²⁵

Topic sentence(s): _____

Main idea: _____

3.2 ใจความสำคัญโดยนัย (unstated or implied main idea)

ในบางย่อหน้าผู้เขียนอาจไม่ได้ระบุใจความสำคัญไว้ในย่อหน้าอย่างเด่นชัด แต่จะให้รายละเอียดแสดงเป็นนัยไว้ ผู้อ่านต้องอ่านย่อหน้านั้นอย่างละเอียด แล้วสรุปใจความสำคัญของเรื่องด้วยตนเอง โดยการนำข้อมูลและรายละเอียดนั้นมาประกอบในการพิจารณาหาใจความสำคัญ ดังตัวอย่าง

ตัวอย่างที่ 1

The first boring task is to prepare breakfast. Johnny, Cathy, and Jed need juice and eggs before a day at school; my husband, Bill, coffee and toast before he speeds off to the office. When everyone is finally away, doing something he or she enjoys, I scrape the dishes off into the garbage, then wash them in the sink. I hate it. Afterwards I look forward to making beds, washing the kitchen floor, cleaning the rug in the living room. If I'm

²⁵ Ibid., p. 179.

lucky the mailman rings the bell so I talk to another human being in the flesh for ten seconds or so. I put up the roast, **find** some other things to do, all along thinking of the adventures my children meet in the classroom while their housewife-mother watches the house in the suburbs. And Bill, the people he meets, the glamorous lunches, the excitement he sees on the streets everyday; there are things I'll never know from this position. I sweep floors, sew buttons, clink pots and pans--that's my work For the world.²⁶

ในย่อหน้านี้ผู้เขียนไม่ได้ระบุใจความสำคัญไว้ แต่ให้รายละเอียดเกี่ยวกับงานบ้านที่เธอในฐานะแม่บ้านต้องทำ ได้แก่ การทำอาหารเช้า การล้างถ้วยชาม เก็บที่นอน ทำความสะอาดบ้านคนเดียวเป็นเรื่องที่น่าเบื่อและเหนื่อย เธออิงฉาสามีและลูก ๆ ที่ได้พบปะผู้คนและได้พบสิ่งที่ตื่นเต้นต่าง ๆ เมื่อพิจารณาจากรายละเอียดข้างต้นนี้ สรุปได้ว่า ใจความสำคัญของเรื่องคือ My life as a housewife is full of dull, and meaningless tasks.

ตัวอย่างที่ 2

Although the position or movement of the body does not by itself have a precise or universal meaning in a conversation, when it is linked with spoken language, it gives fuller meaning to the speaker's words. Intonation, too, influences the hearer's perception of what is being said. And intonation

²⁶ Wiener, *Reading Skills Handbook*, p. 90.

can actually change the meaning of a verbal message, adding information not contained in the words themselves. The facial expression of the speaker can show many of the speaker's characteristics that would not be obvious in a written transcript of the conversation. And the way the speaker space himself from the hearer, in terms of physical distance, has meaning. What is considered proper spacing in various kinds of situations is depended largely on the norms of the culture. How the speaker disregards or respects those norms adds to the total content of the message.”

เมื่ออ่านย่อหน้าจบแล้ว นักศึกษาจะเห็นว่าผู้เขียนไม่ได้ระบุใจความสำคัญไว้ในเนื้อหาเลย แต่กลับอธิบายและให้รายละเอียดเกี่ยวกับการเคลื่อนไหวร่างกาย (body movement) น้ำเสียง (intonation) สีหน้า (facial expression) และระยะห่าง (space) ของผู้พูดกับผู้ฟังไว้อย่างละเอียดว่า มีผลต่อการสื่อความหมายในการสนทนาอย่างไร เพื่อพิจารณาจากข้อความเหล่านี้ ผู้อ่านก็สามารถสรุปได้ว่า ผู้เขียนต้องการบอกว่า นอกจากภาษาพูด (spoken language) แล้ว อวัจนภาษา (non-verbal language) ของผู้พูด อันได้แก่ การเคลื่อนไหวร่างกาย น้ำเสียง สีหน้า ระยะห่างของผู้พูด มีผลต่อความหมายที่ผู้พูดต้องการสื่อไปยังผู้ฟังในการสนทนา ดังนั้น สรุปได้ว่าใจความสำคัญของย่อหน้านี้ คือ In addition to the words which a speaker uses to convey meanings in a conversation, the hearer has to deal with certain kinds of non-verbal language.

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Martin L. Arnaudet and Mary Ellen Barrett, *Approaches to Academic Reading and Writing* (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1984), p. 13.

ย่อหน้าต่อไปนี้เป็นย่อหน้าที่ไม่ได้ระบุใจความสำคัญไว้ ให้นักศึกษาอ่านย่อหน้าต่อไปและหาใจความสำคัญที่ดีที่สุดของแต่ละย่อหน้าจากตัวเลือกที่ให้ไว้

In each of the following paragraphs, the main idea is implied. Read each of them carefully and then choose the answer you think is the best main idea for it.

1. A recent news story in Washington, D. C., reports that, of 184 persons convicted of gun possession in a six-month periods, only 14 received a jail sentence. Forty-six other cases involved persons who had previously been convicted of a felony or possession of a gun. Although the maximum penalty for such repeaters in the District of Columbia is ten years in prison, half of these were not jailed at all. A study last year revealed that in New York City, which has about the most prohibitive gun legislation in the country, any one of six people convicted of crimes involving weapons went to jail.

- *Barry Goldwater*

- a. Washington, DC., newspapers generally report crime statistics accurately.
- b. It is not unusual for many of those who possess **gun** illegally to go free.
- c. New York City probably has the strictest law about gun control.
- d. Gun-control legislation is essential for the future survival of American democracy.

2. Only 30 percent of family businesses survive their founders and make it into the second generation, according to most authorities on the subject. The rest are sold or go bankrupt. And the statistics grow grimmer with the passage of time. Only half of those companies that live through the transition to the second generation will survive as a family business into the third or fourth generations.

- *The New York Times*

- a. About one third of family business last beyond the lives of the founders.
- b. Family businesses should be avoided.
- c. Family businesses can go bankrupt.
- d. Family businesses do not have a long survival rate.

3. The idea *happiness*, to be sure, will not sit still for easy definition: the best one can do is try to set some extremes to the idea and then work in toward the middle. To think of happiness as acquisitive and competitive will do to set the materialistic extreme. To think of it as the idea one senses in, say, a holy man of India will do to set the **spiritual** extreme. That

holy man's idea of happiness is in needing nothing from outside himself. In wanting nothing, he lacks nothing. He sits immobile, rapt in contemplation, free even of his own body. Or nearly free of it. If devout admirers bring him food he eats it; if not, he starves indifferently. Why be concerned? What is physical is an illusion to him. Contemplation is his joy and he achieves it through a fantastically demanding discipline, the accomplishment of which is itself a joy within him.

-John Ciardi

- a. Happiness as an idea exists in avoiding extremes.
- b. We can define happiness by seeing what makes us happy.
- c. The definition of happiness exists between two extremes.
- d. Only people who are extreme are happy.

4. There are times when I find myself spending the night in the home of another. Frequently the other is in a more reasonable line of work than I and must arise at a specific hour. **Oftimes** the other, unbeknownst to me, manipulates an appliance in such a way that I am awakened by Stevie Wonder. On such occasions I announce that if I wished to be awakened by Stevie Wonder I would sleep with Stevie Wonder. I do not, however, wish to be awakened by Stevie Wonder and that is why God invented alarm clocks. Sometimes the other realizes that I am right. Sometimes the other does not. And that is why God invented *many* others.

-Fran Lebowitz

- a. The author does not like Stevie Wonder's music.
- b. The author does not like to be awakened by music.
- c. The author does not like to wake up in the morning.
- d. The author believes that God invented the alarm clock.

5. The last inch of space was filled, yet people continued to wedge themselves along the walls of the Store. Uncle Willie had turned the radio up to its last notch so that youngsters on the porch wouldn't miss a word. Women sat on kitchen chairs, dining-room chairs, stools and upturned wooden boxes. Small children and babies perched on every lap available and man leaned on the shelves or on each other.

- Maya Angelou

- a. There was little room left in the store for the people wanted to be there.
- b. Uncle Willie made sure that everyone heard the radio.
- c. Crowds of people gathered in the store to listen to important news on the radio.
- d. Children and young babies were cranky on their parents' laps.

กิจกรรมการเรียนรู้ที่ 4

ย่อหน้าต่อไปนี้เป็นตัวอย่างข้อความสำคัญไว้ให้นักศึกษาอ่านย่อหน้าแต่ละย่อหน้า และเขียนข้อความสำคัญที่สรุปได้ในที่ที่จัดไว้ให้ตอนท้ายของแต่ละย่อหน้า

In each of the following paragraphs, the main idea is implied. Read each of them and write the main idea that you get in the space provided at the end of each paragraph.

Example:

Osiris, Egyptian god of the underworld, was often portrayed in mummy wrappings. Isis, frequently represented with a cow's head or horns, was the nature goddess. Ra was the sun god, whose symbol was the pyramid. **Amon** was often represented as a ram or with a ram's head.²⁹

Implied Main Idea: The Eevutians had several gods.

1. My son used to be an articulate (well-spoken), friendly young man of whom I was very proud. That was before he started going to movies regularly. Since that time he seems to have decided that real men don't talk very much. After all, Chuck Norris hardly says a word in his movies. When my son does get around to talking, his conversation is composed of one-syllable words like "yeah," "no," and "oh yeah." Actually, his conversation

²⁹ Maker, *College Reading*, p. 13.

very strongly resembles the kind of snappy dialogue that made Clint Eastwood famous. Before he became a movie fan, my son had female as well as male friends. But now he likes only to associate with what he calls “real men.” For their part, those real men spend most of their time trying to look and mumble like their idol, Sylvester Stallone.³⁰

Implied Main Idea: _____

2. An expectant mother has to avoid alcohol during her pregnancy. Too much alcohol in her blood can prevent the fetus from receiving necessary nutritional supplies, and the baby will be born under the normal weight. There is also mounting evidence that smoking during pregnancy can do permanent damage to a child’s health, and children of smokers tend to have a higher incidence of respiratory infection throughout their lives. Clearly, mothers-to-be who smoke should think about quitting. Likewise, expectant mothers have to be careful about the kind of exercise they do, and all very vigorous exercises should be avoided. During pregnancy, medication must be carefully monitored as well. Too often drugs not harmful to the mother can do serious, even irreparable, damage to the **child**.³¹

³⁰ Flemming, *Reading for Results*, pp. 146-147.

³¹ *Ibid.*, p. 149.

Implied Main Idea: _____

3. Traffic is directed by color. Pilot instrument panels, landing strips, road and water crossings are regulated by many colored lights and signs. Factories use colors to distinguish between thoroughfares and work areas. Danger zones are painted in special colors. Lubrication points and removable parts are accentuated by color. Pipes for transporting water, steam, oil, chemicals, and compressed air, are designated by different colors. Electrical wires and resistances are color coded.³²

Implied Main Idea: _____

4. For some important voices in society, television broadcasting is a part of the institutionalism of education: a method of transmitting knowledge; a device of spreading cultural richness to culturally arid areas; a mechanism for increasing the effectiveness of the school, the library, and the teacher. For the world of business and industry, television broadcasting is an advertising device, capable of moving goods and services from a few central supplying points to the outermost limits of the United States,

³² Gerritsen, "Theory and Practice of Color", p. 9, reprinted in McWhorter, *College Reading and Study Skills*, p. 124.

capable of popularizing brand names of toothpaste, cereals, cigarettes, soaps and beer. For those who regulate broadcasting, television is seen as a user of the radio spectrum--a natural resource--under a federal license requiring operation in the public interest. To those who see this as television's role, any conflict between private and public interest must naturally be resolved in favor of the public.³³

Implied Main Idea: _____

5. We American have destroyed most of our forests, thus depriving our air of the life-giving oxygen these forests produced. We are spewing dust and smoke into the air by the ton. This dust and smoke lessens the amount of sunlight the earth receives. And sunlight interacting with the green coloring matter in plants produces oxygen. We are poisoning our oceans by chemicals. This poisoning further depletes our oxygen by killing the green plants which live in them.³⁴

Implied Main Idea: _____

³³ Hilliard, "Understanding Television," p. 11, reprinted in McWhorter, *College Reading and Study Skills*, p. 126.

³⁴ Sherbourne, *Toward Reading Comprehension*, p. 173.

สรุป

ใจความสำคัญเป็นปัจจัยที่สำคัญยิ่งในการอ่าน ในการอ่านนักศึกษาต้องอ่านเนื้อเรื่องและหาใจความสำคัญของเรื่องให้ได้ จะทำให้นักศึกษาเข้าใจเรื่องได้ดีขึ้น สำหรับใจความสำคัญที่ระบุในเรื่อง นักศึกษาสามารถตรวจสอบว่าประโยคใดเป็นประโยคใจความสำคัญได้ โดยอาศัยการตั้งคำถามว่าผู้เขียนต้องการจะบอกอะไรกับผู้อ่านหรือประโยคใดที่มีประโยคในเนื้อเรื่องมาสนับสนุนส่วนใจความสำคัญโดยนัย นักศึกษาต้องอ่านเนื้อเรื่องโดยละเอียด แล้ววิเคราะห์สรุปใจความสำคัญด้วยตนเอง โดยอาศัยรายละเอียดที่ผู้เขียนให้ไว้

การประเมินผลท้ายบท

จงหาใจความสำคัญของย่อหน้าต่อไปนี้ ถ้าเป็นใจความที่ระบุไว้ ให้เขียนหมายเลขของประโยคใจความสำคัญและใจความสำคัญในที่ที่จัดไว้ให้ ถ้าเป็นใจความสำคัญโดยนัย ให้เขียนใจความสำคัญโดยนัยนั้นในที่ที่จัดไว้ให้

Find the main idea of each of the following paragraphs. If it is stated main idea, write the number of the topic sentence and the stated main idea in the space provided. If it is implied main idea, write the implied main idea in the space provided.

1. [1] It must be admitted at once that knowledge has a potential for both evil and good. [2] The discoveries of fire, explosives, and even the most benign of medicines have brought about tragedy as well as comfort. [3] Polio vaccines have virtually eliminated one of the most miserable scourges within memory; yet those and other life-saving vaccines themselves kill and maim a certain small fraction of those inoculated. [4] The routine, prophylactic use of smallpox vaccine does more harm than

good. [5] Early batches of administered polio vaccine contained SV40, a cancer-producing virus.³⁵

Topic sentence(s): _____

Stated Main Idea: _____

Implied Main Idea: _____

2. [1] The first horselike creature lived 700 million years ago and was only about 11 inches high. [2] It had four toes on each forefoot and three on each hind foot. [3] By 45 million years ago the creature had doubled in size and had three toes on all four feet. [4] By 10 million years ago it had double in size again, and its feet had a single toe forming a hoof. [5] The true horse, *Equus*, appeared in North America about a million years ago. [6] It migrated to Asia and later became extinct in America. [7] It was finally reintroduced by European settlers.³⁶

Topic sentence(s): _____

³⁵ *Prism Magazine*, October 1973, the American Medical Association, reprinted in Sherbourne, *Toward Reading Comprehension*, p. 191.

³⁶ Maker, *College Reading*, p. 14.

Stated Main Idea: _____

Implied Main Idea: _____

3. [1] After you have constructed your speech and written out a full-content outline for it, you are ready to begin your oral practice. [2] The key-word outline is an excellent aid to memory in such practice. [3] This outline has the same indentation and the same symbols as the full-content outline, but it boils down each statement to a key word, phrase, or brief sentence that can be more easily remembered. [4] By reading a key-word outline through repeatedly from beginning to end, you will be able to fix the ideas of your speech firmly in mind and to recall them readily as you stand before an audience. [5] Of course, to ensure accuracy, you may read specific quotations or figures from note cards.³⁷

Topic sentence(s): _____

Stated Main Idea: _____

Implied Main Idea: _____

³⁷ Monroe and Ehninger, *Principles and Types of Speech*, pp. 49- 50, reprinted in McWhorter, *College Reading and Study Skills*, pp. 113-114.

4. [1] The study of mathematics may be likened to the study of a language. [2] In fact, mathematics is a language, the language of number and size. [3] Just as the rules of grammar must be studied in order to master English, so must certain concepts, definitions, rules, terms, and words be learned in the pursuit of mathematical knowledge. [4] These form the vocabulary or structure of the language. [5] The more a language is studied and used, the greater becomes the vocabulary; the more mathematics is studied and applied, the greater becomes its usefulness.³⁸

Topic sentence(s): _____

Stated Main Idea: _____

Implied Main Idea: _____

5. [1] Brotherly love is the love among equals; motherly love is love for the helpless. [2] Different as they are from each other, they have in common that they are by their nature not restricted to one person. [3] If I love my brother, I love all my brothers; if I love my child, I love all my children; no, beyond that, I love all children, all that are in need of my help. [4] In contrast to both types of love is *erotic love*: it is the craving for complete fusion, for union with one

³⁸ Cooke, *Basic Mathematics for Electronics*, p. 1, reprinted in McWhorter, *College Reading and Study Skills*, p. 115.

other person. [5] It is by its very nature exclusive and not universal; it is also perhaps the most deceptive form of love there is.³⁹

Topic sentence(s): _____

Stated Main Idea: _____

Implied Main Idea: _____

6. [1] No part of the Earth's surface is exempt from earthquakes, but since the start of systematic recording many large areas have had only occasional shocks of small or moderate intensity. [2] By contrast, several large tracts are subject to frequent shocks, both strong and weak, and are known as seismic belts. [3] The most prominent, aptly called the Circum-Pacific belt, follows the western highlands of south and North America from Cape Horn to Alaska, crosses to Asia, extends southward along the eastern coast and related island arcs, and loops far to the southeast and south beyond New Zealand. [4] Next in prominence is the broad east-west zone extending through the high mountains of southern Asia and the Mediterranean region to Gibraltar. [5] A third long belt follows the Mid-Atlantic Ridge from

³⁹ Erich Fromm, reprinted in Wiener, *Reading Skills Handbook*, p. 92.

Arctic to Antarctic waters, and a belt in eastern Africa. [6] Smaller seismic areas include island groups in the Pacific and Atlantic.⁴⁰

Topic sentence(s): _____

Stated Main Idea: _____

Implied Main Idea: _____

7. [1] Despite claims by the Pentagon that herbicides do not hurt people, the scientific mission amassed evidence to indicate that the chemicals do cause "painful and disagreeable symptoms" ranging from respiratory troubles like sore throats and nose bleeding to diarrhea, skin rashes and heart palpitations. [2] Dr. Gerald Hickey, a Cornell University anthropologist who has spent more than a decade among the mountain ridges of South Vietnam, reported on the basis of interviews that more than 100 highlanders, most of them children, died following the spraying of defoliants (substances used to strip the leaves from trees and other plant growth) in their native areas. [3] The study points out that the use of herbicides also backfired psychologically against the U.S. [4] The

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Longwell and Flint, *Introduction to Physical Geology*, p. 402, reprinted in McWhorter, *College Reading and Study Skills*, pp. 120-121.

Vietnamese came to regard defoliation as an "American assault" against their land and themselves. [5] Commenting on the chemical campaign, the Saigon journal *Trinh Bay* wrote in April, 1972, that the U.S. was contradictorily "exterminating the very people one wishes to protect."⁴¹

Topic sentence(s): _____

Stated Main Idea: _____

Implied Main Idea: _____

⁴¹ Stanley Karnow, "Vietnam...Legacy of Defoliation," in *The New York Republic*, The New York Republic, 1973, reprinted in Sherbourne, p. 186.