



# Topic, Main Idea, or Summary?

Term	Definition	Example
Topic	Who or what the text is about; can often be expressed in one or two words.	Sharks
Main Idea	What the text says about the topic; can often be expressed in one sentence or less.	Sharks do many things.
Summary	A synthesis of the important ideas in a text; may be of varying length, expressed in the reader's own words and should reflect the structure of the text.	Sharks swim through the oceans hunting for prey, such as fish and seals. Sometimes, they work together to attack prey and may even engage in playful activities.

