

# WORKSHEET 1

## FINDING THE MAIN IDEA!

**Directions:** Read each paragraph. Mentally determine its topic. Then identify its stated main idea sentence by asking yourself, "What is the one most important point the author wants me to understand about the topic?" The sentence that answers that question is the paragraph's stated main idea sentence.

1. (1) Tsunamis, large ocean waves caused by underwater earthquakes, can be deadly and destructive. (2) For example, in December 2004, an underwater earthquake triggered a massive tsunami throughout the Indian Ocean. (3) The tsunami killed more than 200,000 people and caused billions of dollars of damage to the coasts of numerous Southeast Asian countries.
2. (1) Even today, the U.S. Supreme Court does not reflect the U.S. population. (2) It was 1967 before the first black justice was appointed. (3) It was 1981 before the first woman was appointed to the Court. (4) It was 1986 before the Court had its first justice of Italian descent. (5) No person of Hispanic or Asian descent has yet been appointed as a member of the Court.
3. (1) In Africa, music is usually performed outdoors. (2) There is spontaneous music-making as well as performances by social and music groups at ceremonies and feasts. (3) There is no musical notation (written music). (4) African music tradition, like folklore and history, is transmitted orally. (5) Music is a social activity in which almost everyone participates. (6) Clearly, African music has several interesting characteristics.



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4. (1) High achievement motivation affects people's choice of occupation and job success. (2) (High achievement motivation refers to the psychological need for success in school, sports, occupations, or other competitive situations. (3) People with high achievement motivation often go into occupations that provide rewards for individual achievement, such as sales, engineering, architecture, or law. (4) Moreover, people with high achievement motivation tend to go into occupations that realistically match their abilities. (5) For this reason, they have little anxiety or fear of failure. (6) And when success is achieved, they enjoy the fruit of their labor more than the average person.
5. (1) Democracy comes from the Greek word demos, which means "the people," and kratia, meaning "to rule." (2) The term democracy refers to a form of government in which the people govern, either directly or through elected representatives. (3) In other words, it is a set of rules for determining who will exercise the authority of government.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

