

Writing Main Idea Statements

Step one:

You must first decide on the purpose of the text. What is the goal—to inform, to compare, to examine, to persuade, to analyze, to refute? Then, finish this sentence:

The goal of _____ in his/her _____
(author) (genre) (title)
is to _____.
(purpose)

Step two:

Now, you need to specifically and precisely articulate the topic. Finish by inserting a clause to complete the following statement:

The goal of _____ in his/her _____
(author) (genre) (title)
is to _____ that _____.
(verb form for purpose) (complex position about abstract concept)

Step three (applicable to writing situation):

Enhance statement with assertion of author's primary rhetorical appeals and/or strategies.

The goal of _____ in his/her _____
(author) (genre) (title)
is to _____ that _____
(verb form for purpose) (complex position about abstract concept)
through effective use of _____.
(dominant rhetorical appeals/strategies)