At a Glance
• Recognizing the main idea in a selection or chapter and the facts and details that support that idea
• Understanding a main idea about immigration and the facts and details that support that idea
• Identifying a main idea and supporting details on a general topic, such as a time period, a governmental system, etc.

Differentiated Instruction: Lesson 2
Pair regular and advanced students with struggling students to look for details to support a main idea.

LESSON 1 MAIN IDEA CHART
Step-by-Step Strategy
1. In the topic section of the chart, enter a specific topic that students will be studying. Identify a specific selection/portion of the textbook, and ask students to skim the material for the main idea about this topic.
2. Allow students to offer statements of the main idea. Record a final version of the main idea in the chart.
3. Then assign students to complete the reading assignment, looking for details that support the main idea.
4. Conduct a group brainstorming session in which students identify and you list the details supporting the main idea.
5. At the end of the group discussion, ask students to write a one-or-two sentence summary stating the main idea and the details that support it.

LESSON 2 SUPPORT FOR WRITING
Step-by-Step Strategy
1. Use the graphic organizer to model a sample topic, main idea, and supporting details.
2. Distribute blank copies of the Main Idea Chart or direct students to locate one online.
3. Ask students to use the chart to develop a main idea and supporting details for a topic from a chapter or selection.
4. Circulate among the students, skimming their work and prompting them to find details.
5. Ask students to use their Main Idea Chart as a writing plan for an informative paragraph.
6. Give them the following format for their paper.
   • Introduce the main idea.
   • Write three sentences, one for each detail being developed.
   • Summarize the material in a concluding sentence.