

## Understanding the Difference...

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<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Main Idea:</b>	<b>Theme:</b>
<p><b><u>What does TOPIC mean?</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The subject of the story</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>What does MAIN IDEA mean?</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A few words on what the story is about (not as detailed as paraphrasing/retelling)</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>What does THEME mean?</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The central meaning or purpose to the story</li> <li>A generalization about life</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Literary Example:</u></b> (Based on: Cinderella)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A slave girl/ princess</p>	<p><b><u>Literary Example:</u></b> (Based on: Cinderella)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Slave girl turns into a princess through magic.</p>	<p><b><u>Literary Example:</u></b> (Based on: Cinderella)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kindness Perseverance Never giving up hope</p>
<p><b><u>Informational Example:</u></b> (Based on: Water, Water, Everywhere)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Water Cycle</p>	<p><b><u>Informational Example:</u></b> (Based on: Water, Water, Everywhere)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">How the water cycle works</p>	<p><b><u>Informational Example:</u></b> (Based on: Water, Water, Everywhere)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weather</p>
<p><b><u>Questions from TASK CARDS:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What topic is covered in the article?</li> <li>What information does the author use to support the main topic of this article?</li> <li>Explain the topic of this passage.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Questions from TASK CARDS:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the MAIN IDEA of this story/passage/article?</li> <li>What is the most important lesson ____ learns in the story/passage?</li> <li>Why do you think this story/article has the title “_____”?</li> <li>What would be another good title for this story?</li> <li>Which sentence best tells what the passage is about?</li> <li>What is the essential message in the story/article?</li> <li>Which sentence from the article tells the</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Questions from TASK CARDS:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is a positive result of _____ in the passage?</li> <li>What is the best lesson that can be learned from this passage?</li> <li>What is the theme of this passage?</li> </ul>

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	author's main message?	
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