

**PURPOSE:** The strategy helps students determine the main idea. Students read a paragraph or short section of text to identify specific details. Using these details, students determine what the details have in common. This is the main idea of the paragraph/section.

### Strategy 1 - Instructions for Determining Main Idea

- Using the graphic organizer, “Main Idea Mania,” fill in the general topic (the overall idea of the ENTIRE text).
- Read a paragraph or short section of text.
- Then, list the details of the paragraph/section in one DETAILS box.
- Ask the student to determine what the details have in common. This one statement is the main idea of the paragraph/section. Write this in the connecting MAIN IDEA box.
- Continue to determine the main ideas for the remainder of the text or section of text.

**Facilitator Note:** The graphic organizer handouts are student resources that are used with permission from the Florida Center for Research: home page <http://www.fcrr.org>