9/09 **READING TECHNIQUES**

Monday

**MAIN IDEA-** The most important information regarding the topic in the reading. Usually is found in the first few sentences of a paragraph. Can also be called a *topic sentence.* The main idea is usually expressed in one sentence.

EX: Topic-Fire Drill Practice

* Main Idea-To show students what to do when we have a real fire drill.
* Supporting Details:
  + Exit the room and take a right down the hallway
  + Take a left at the end of the hallway and exit through the double doors.
  + Walk down the path, cross the road and meet on the grassy area across the road.

**SUMMARY-** A detailed description of the topic which includes details about the topic. A summary can be anywhere from one paragraph to multiple pages depending on the length of the document you are summarizing. Summaries take a lot of information and put it in your own words in a short and concise way.

**PURPOSE:**-The reason why the author created his work.

EX: The purpose for doing the fire drill practice was to allow the students to practice evacuating the building quickly and become familiar with the route.

**AUDIENCE-**The people or groups the author wants to inform or communicate with.

EX: THe audience for the fire drill practice was the students in room 163.