**Essential Criteria for Effective Writing:**

**Main Idea/Focus**

* Topic or subject is selected by the writer with or without a writing prompt
* If I, the writer, stray from the topic the focus is weakened
* I may state the topic explicitly or develop it inductively
* My piece should have no extraneous or loosely related information
* If I have strong focus, my reader will not be confused

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My definition:

When I write with strong main idea/focus I will stay on topic. I will not include unnecessary or irrelevant information; this would confuse my audience.

E.C.4.W.

Main Idea/Focus (continued)

Using details to identify the main idea and create a topic sentence.



Paragraph 1 topic sentence:

Pollution is produced in a variety ways.

Paragraph 2 topic sentence (cause and effect):

Children around the world are watching too much TV, and it is effecting their ability to learn.