Supporting Details - Tutor Hints

Supporting Details provide information to clarify, prove, or explain the *main idea*. These details demonstrate the validity of the *main idea*. They often list parts, aspects, steps, or examples of the *main idea*. Or sometimes they may list the causes of it, effects from it, or ways in which it shows itself to be true.

There are two types of supporting details: **major** and **minor**

- Major Details
    - o explain the *main idea*.
    - o are more specific than the main idea.
    - o provide the examples, reasons, statistics and studies that help make the main idea clear and convincing.
    - o answer readers' questions about the main idea.

- Minor Details
    - o explain a **major detail.**
    - o are even more specific than **major details.**
    - o repeat key points and add colorful detail.
    - o may or may not be important enough to include in reading notes.

Example:
I really like apples. They are sweet, crisp, and juicy and just filling enough to take the edge off my appetite. When I eat apples, I also think of the vitamins and minerals they contain, and the fiber they supply to keep me healthy.
	Main Idea: I like apples (for the following reasons).
	    Major Detail: They are crisp, juicy, and filling.
	    Major Detail: They provide healthy vitamins, minerals, and fiber.

Some extra Hints - The supporting details in a sentence or a paragraph MIGHT begin with some of the following words:

for example, for instance, in addition, another, in fact, furthermore, moreover, therefore, as a result, consequently, first, second, third, next, then, last, finally, etc…

Example:
Neighborhood watch programs are good for everyone. One reason for this is that neighborhood watches unite neighbors in a common goal. Neighbors work together to protect each other. One family's security becomes everyone's concern. Another reason is that neighborhood watches reduce crime in a couple of ways. Posted signs act as deterrents to criminals. Neighbors in these areas are more likely to report any suspicious persons or activities. And finally, watch programs keep neighbors alert. Because neighbors meet regularly, everyone is more aware of events, rules, or changes in the community.
	Main Idea: Neighborhood watch programs are good for everyone (in the following ways).
	   Major: Neighborhood watches unite neighbors in a common goal.
	     Minor: Neighbors work together to Protect each other.
	     Minor: One family's security becomes everyone's concern.
	   Major: Neighborhood watches reduce crime.
	     Minor: Posted signs act as deterrents to criminals.
	     Minor: Neighbors are more likely to report suspicious persons or activities.
	   Major: Watch programs keep neighbors alert.
	     Minor: Because neighbors meet regularly, they are more aware of events, rules, or changes in the community.