

RD 115 **Week 5** Lecture Guide:
Identifying **Supporting Details**

I. **Paragraphs Consist of Three Main Elements:**

1. **Topics:** Who or What is the paragraph about?
2. **Main Idea:** What is the single most important thing the author wants to say about the topic?
 - a. May be **stated** or **implied**
 - b. Is always a **full sentence**
 - c. Contains the **topic**
 - d. **Can stand alone**; doesn't *need* supporting details
3. **Supporting Details:** Help us *understand the main idea more completely*

II. **Identifying Supporting Details**

- Ask:
What additional information does the author provide to help us understand the main idea more completely?
- And:
Turn the main idea into a question, asking
 - Who**
 - What**
 - When**
 - Where**
 - Why**
 - How**

... about the main idea
- Look for:
 - Names, dates, places, statistics
 - Definitions and descriptions
 - Examples and illustrations
 - Details and specifics
- Signal words and phrases**
 - First, second, third . . .
 - Next, and, another. . .
 - Also, in addition, including, finally . . .
 - For example, for instance, to illustrate . . .
 - Such as, the following . . .
 - 1, 2, 3 . . . a, b, c . . .
 - There are three types / two ways / several kinds / four causes / three explanations . . .

