

## Controlling Idea Hunt Answer Key

(Controlling ideas are bolded for teacher reference only. Student versions should underline them.)

1. Community gardens offer **many benefits to neighborhoods**.  
Focus: The paragraph will explain the types of benefits community gardens provide.
2. Online learning requires **strong habits to stay organized**.  
Focus: The paragraph will focus on habits or strategies that help students stay organized online.
3. Different bird species use **unique methods to build their nests**.  
Focus: The paragraph will describe various nest-building techniques.
4. Public libraries provide **important services for people of all ages**.  
Focus: The paragraph will explain what services libraries offer and why they matter.
5. Volunteering at local events helps students **develop valuable skills**.  
Focus: The paragraph will discuss the specific skills students gain through volunteering.

### Teacher's Guide

- Review key vocabulary: a **topic** is the subject, and the **controlling idea** is the specific angle or focus the writer will explain.
- Model underlining the controlling idea in a sample sentence by identifying what the writer will talk about, not just who or what the sentence is about.
- Provide support by giving students guiding questions such as **What is the writer saying about the topic?** and **Which words show the focus?**
- For students who need scaffolded practice, create a two-column chart: Topic on one side and Controlling Idea on the other.
- For extension, ask students to write a short paragraph based on one of the topic sentences, staying tightly focused on the controlling idea.
- Encourage peer discussion so students can compare interpretations of each controlling idea and defend their reasoning.