

Article Summary-Response Essay

A summary condenses and presents information from a single source. For this assignment, you will be summarizing an article of your choice from the TC database.

Your goal is to concisely present information so the reader understands the main point. In the body of the summary, present the author's ideas objectively, **without including your opinion** on them. For this assignment, your summary needs to be approximately one-and-a-half to two pages in length (12 pt. Times or Times New Roman double-spaced).

Step 1: Read the article

Read your article thoroughly from start to finish. Look up any words that are unfamiliar to you. Jot the meanings of the words in the margins of the printout.

Step 2: Take notes

Main idea and major supporting ideas:

Read through the article again, highlighting the **main idea (thesis)** and the **major supporting ideas**. Remember, the **main idea (thesis)** is often found at the beginning of an article and repeated at the end. Major supporting ideas are often found at the beginning of a paragraph, and they should be supported by evidence. Take notes on the margins of the printout, putting the major supporting ideas into **YOUR OWN WORDS**.

Step 3: Draft

Drafting a summary is similar to drafting an essay. Your draft should contain the following elements:

- **Introduction:** Begin with a sentence that introduces the subject of your summary and will interest the reader. The introduction paragraph ends with a sentence that includes the **author's name, the title of the article, and the main idea (thesis) of the article**. This sentence is the thesis (main idea) for your summary.

- **Body Paragraphs:** The body paragraphs summarize the most important points in the article. The number of paragraphs you have for the body will vary. You need decide what works best; however, the body must be more than one long paragraph.

- The topic sentence of each body paragraph should state the main idea that the paragraph will develop and **incorporate a reference to the author**. The inclusion of the author's name in each topic sentence makes it perfectly clear to the reader that you are still discussing the ideas of another person rather than your own ideas.

- The body paragraphs themselves will paraphrase the author's ideas; that is, you will state the ideas **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**. Quoting a key word or phrase from the author is permissible, but never quote a complete sentence. If you quote a key word or phrase, use quotation marks. Most of the summary should be **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**.

Your summary should have several body paragraphs. The length of the paragraphs is up to you, but your goal is to explain the author's most important ideas.

- Refer to text you have underlined or highlighted. Be sure to express the author's main ideas **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**; **DO NOT COPY ENTIRE SENTENCES**. If you cannot express an idea in your own words, you probably don't fully understand it.

- Include restated definitions of key terms, important concepts, and procedures or principles. **DO NOT** include examples, descriptive details, quotations, or anything not

essential to the main point. **DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR OPINION IN THE BODY PARAGRAPHS.**

- Present the ideas in the order in which they appear in the original source.
- Reread the summary to determine if it contains sufficient information.
- Ask yourself this question: If someone had not read the article, would your summary be a good substitute that covers all the author's major points?

• **Conclusion:** The conclusion sums up the author's ideas and presents your evaluation of or reaction to the article. Placing your evaluation in the conclusion is a way of clearly separating your reaction to the article from the summary. Note: This is not the ONLY correct way to write a conclusion for a summary. However, this is the way you are required to write the conclusion for this assignment. This type of conclusion works well because it clearly signals to the reader that you are wrapping things up.

The final sentence of your conclusion should be a sentence that again states the author's name and restates or echoes the main idea as presented in the introduction.

Step 4: Revise, Proofread, Cite Your Source

The final draft of your paper will include proper formatting and a Works Cited entry at the END of your paper.

Notes on Paraphrasing:

A paraphrase is a restatement, **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**, of an author's original material.

- It is always permissible to repeat key terms.
- **DO NOT QUOTE ENTIRE SENTENCES.**
- The sentence structure of a paraphrase should vary from that of the original material.

Step 5: Format Works Cited

Example:

Diduch, Mary. "In Cold Blood: Four Dirty Truths About White-Collar Criminals." *Psychology Today* 45.2 (2012): 12. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 30 Sept. 2013.

Remember: You can use the Cite button in the database to format your Works Cited entry in the correct MLA format.

Step 6: Final Copy

For the final copy, make sure you have titled your paper. The title is simply

Article Summary: "Title of Your Article"

- You need a **header** with your name and the page number for each page of your article summary.
- Your article summary-response needs to be typed in 12-point Times or Times New Roman and **double-spaced**.
- For this assignment, you **DO NOT** need a cover page, an outline, or an edited rough draft.
- However, you **MUST attach your article to the back of your summary.**