

Article Summary

Assignment Summary: A landmark study (*Writing News*) examined all the research on what activities help students improve their writing skills. Second from the top of the list was a surprising result: write summaries. As it turns out, writing a summary helps students read better, study more effectively, remember information longer, and practice skills needed to write a research paper. In addition to these benefits, writing a summary is great training for the reading sections of state tests and for the SAT and ACT. The skills needed to write a summary will help when looking for main ideas, and every reading test includes questions about the main ideas. While there are many opinions about what makes a good summary, most people agree on the following characteristics:

- Summaries are significantly shorter than the original
- Summaries follow the organizational pattern of the original
- Summaries include the main ideas
- Summaries DO NOT include the opinion of the person who wrote the summary
- Summaries paraphrase the original author's words

Writer's Purpose: You will write the main ideas in your own words. Include the most important details if the word limit permits. You will want clear and accurate information with no opinion. Remember, this is a summary – not an evaluation.

Form: These summaries will be formatted as John Collins Type 3 writing assignments. You will write a summary of your assigned article in approximately ten percent of the words – not exactly ten percent, but approximately ten percent. For example, if you have an article that is 12 pages, your summary should be approximately 1.2 pages **double-spaced**. Any assignment that is clearly over 10% of the article or not double-spaced will be returned to have these issues revised.

- FCAs:**
1. 3 Main Ideas (9 points)
 2. Integration of 5 supporting relevant details (5 points)
 3. 2 Short Quotes (no more than 5 words) (4 points)