

Paper 1: Summary

Summary

For this first paper, you are to write a summary of Peter Elbow's article "The Believing Game." In summarizing a source, you strive to understand an author's ideas and to present them in your own words. Your summary should be thorough, including all the main ideas in the original source. Please keep the summary succinct, leaving out all the repetition and most of the details and examples in the original source. Check to make sure that the summary is coherent, connecting sentences that reflect the relationships among ideas in the essay you choose to summarize. Also keep in mind the objective nature of the summary by excluding any analysis, opinions, or critique of the author's ideas. If you have written paraphrases of the main ideas from the essay, you can transform these sentences into a summary of the entire source. The following checklist should help you to write a thorough, succinct and coherent summary

- To write an introductory sentence, you may combine your paraphrase of the article's thesis with the author's name and the essay title.
- To write a plan statement, add a sentence that foreshadows the source's sections or stages.
- Use the main ideas that you have paraphrased, consolidating the author's points, leaving out small details, and avoiding any repetition in the original source, to create paragraphs in your paper.
- Sequence the author's main ideas in a logical order.
- Use transitional words, phrases and sentences to connect the author's ideas.
- Quote sparingly, trying to integrate words or short phrases into your own sentences in addition to incorporating whole statements.
- Proofread your paper for grammar, spelling and other careless mistakes.

Suggested length: 2 pages

Summary assignments are graded on the following criteria:

Does the paper fulfill the purpose of the assignment? A summary should relate the information from the original source in an accurate manner, choosing to fully cover key points from the original and reflecting the relationship between these points.

Does the paper present a clear thesis and follow that thesis?

Does the paper present competent use of paraphrasing? Paraphrasing asks students to relate the information from another author or source in your own words which sufficiently differ from the original.

Does the paper built each paragraph around specific subtopics?

Does the paper demonstrate competent paragraphing? Competent paragraphing in this assignment requires providing unified, coherent paragraphs that are well developed through support gleaned from the original source

Does the paper follow the standards of college-level written English? Papers in this class should use grammar, usage, and punctuation according to the conventions of standard written English.

Does the paper reveal a stylistically fluent use of language? Stylistically fluent language requires, in this paper, a basic level of sentence variety, precise and varied use of vocabulary, variety of paragraph openings.

Does the paper avoid using personal pronouns? (Please avoid using: I, we, us, you, me)