

The Parts of a Summary

What is a summary?

What should you include in a summary?



A summary . . .

- *restates someone else's ideas in your **OWN WORDS**
- *presents the main idea and supporting points of an original work
- *shortens the original work to about 1/3 the length of the original

When you summarize. . .

- ***do not** borrow too much from the original work
- ***work from memory** when you write your first draft so that you use **your own words** and **your own phrasing**
- *if you do not change enough of the vocabulary and sentence structure of the original passage, you have _____
plagiarized

Summary or Plagiarism?

Original: “Left partially deaf by a childhood inflammation of the mastoid bones, Thomas Edison throughout his life embraced the world of silence, reveled in its space, allowed it to empower him; as much as any man, perhaps, he recognized silence as the territory of inspiration and cultivated its gifts.” -- Mark Slouka, "Listening for Silence," *Harper's Magazine*

Summary or Plagiarism?: Mark Slouka, in his article "Listening for Silence," informs us that Thomas Edison was left partially deaf by a childhood inflammation of the mastoid bones. Because of this, Slouka says, Edison embraced the world of silence and reveled in its space. Edison recognized silence as the source of inspiration and cultivated it.

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Summary: Mark Slouka, in his article "Listening for Silence," cites Thomas Edison as an example of a man enriched by his isolation from sound. A childhood problem had damaged Edison's hearing; instead of feeling crippled, Edison appreciated the value of quiet. Silence, Slouka explains, was a necessary source of inspiration for Edison.

Tips for when you are asked to write a summary of an article: Step ONE

The **topic sentence** of your **paragraph** summarizing the article should always include

- *1.) the author's name
- *2.) the title of the article AND
- *3.) the main point (or thesis) OF THE ARTICLE

Emma Graves Fitzsimmons, in her article "Parents Finding Care Too Costly," writes about the difficulty working parents face in finding affordable child care in Chicago.

Notice that **the title** of the article contains **capital letters** at the beginning of each word.

Take out your Summary of “Parents Finding Care Too Costly”

Does your **topic sentence** include

*1.) the author's name

*2.) the title of the article AND

*3.) the main point (or thesis) of the article?

If not, correct your **topic sentence** now.

STEP TWO: Now, look for supporting points and evidence (or examples) that help prove the main point (or thesis = the difficulty working parents face in finding affordable child care in Chicago.)

*Gina Mean is a 26-year-old single mom who earns \$1,800 per month and cannot make ends meet, let alone pay for child care because Chicago parents pay between \$185 and \$250 a week at licensed centers

*Child care cost has increased over the past five years, and it is especially expensive in the state of Illinois because of high standards in licensing centers and home care providers

*These high standards result in higher salaries and a lower staff-children ratio, so that supply and demand is effected.

*Parents work during hours that centers are usually closed

Step THREE: Conclude with a reinforcement of the main point of the article

Fitzsimmons discusses the option of financial help from the state for parents who are struggling, but many parents earn too much to qualify. Therefore, parents end up depending heavily on family members and do not seek the care their children clearly need.

All parts together . . . Steps ONE, TWO, THREE:
(indent five spaces→) Emma Graves Fitzsimmons, in her article “Parents Finding Care Too Costly,” writes about the difficulty working parents face in finding affordable child care in Chicago. For example, Gina Mean is a 26-year-old single mom who earns \$1,800 per month and cannot make ends meet, let alone pay for child care because Chicago parents pay between \$185 and \$250 a week at licensed centers. Moreover, child care cost has increased over the past five years, and it is especially expensive in the state of Illinois because of high standards in licensing centers and home care providers. These high standards result in higher salaries and a lower staff-children ratio, so that supply and demand is effected. A final point is that parents work during hours that centers are usually closed. Fitzsimmons discusses the option of financial help from the state for parents who are struggling, but many parents earn too much to qualify. Therefore, parents end up depending heavily on family members and do not seek the care their children clearly need.

"What's Your Learning Style"

by Janet Nelson

Step ONE

The main point can be found in the opening paragraph or introduction.

The conventional method of teaching recreational sports can be summed up as detection and correction -- an instructor watches students perform and then tells them what they're doing wrong and how to do it right. But this can be an unpleasant and ineffective way to learn, and many instructors have turned to a kinder school of thought: people learn in many different ways, and it's up to teachers to tailor the lesson to the student.

STEP TWO: Look for **supporting points** and **evidence** (or **examples**) that help prove **the main point**

- *Psychological research indicates that **individuals have four different learning styles** that correspond to **basic personality types: watching, thinking, feeling or doing**
- *A **test** was developed to identify these styles in schools and businesses, but **sports instructors are now using this approach** and have noticed that the most common type is the visual learner.
- ***Recreational athletes (or beginners and intermediates)** can benefit from this approach **because it makes learning a new sport less intimidating.**
- ***Sports instructors try to appeal to all four learning styles** while offering positive feedback and taking the student's feelings into consideration.
- *The most important point is the idea of **modeling** or **"the process by which a student develops a mental image of how to do something"** (2).

Step THREE: Conclude with a reinforcement of the main point of the article

The key for instructors is to break down all steps of the modeling process into stages, and to avoid introducing any one stage too early or a student might quit because of feeling intimidated. When done properly, an sports instructor's use of learning styles can make teaching a sport to an amateur more effective.

All parts together (Steps ONE, TWO, THREE):

In her article "What's Your Learning Style?," Janet Nelson reports that recreational sports instructors are realizing the benefits of appealing to different kinds of learning styles in students. Psychological research indicates that individuals have four different learning styles that correspond to basic personality types: watching, thinking, feeling or doing. A test was developed to identify these styles in schools and businesses, but sports instructors are now using this approach and have noticed that the most common type is the visual learner. Recreational athletes (or beginners and intermediates) can benefit from this approach because it makes learning a new sport less intimidating. Sports instructors try to appeal to all four learning styles while offering positive feedback and taking the student's feelings into consideration. The most important point is the idea of modeling or "the process by which a student develops a mental image of how to do something" (2). The key for instructors is to break down all steps of the modeling process into stages, and to avoid introducing any one stage too early or a student might quit because of feeling intimidated. When done properly, a sports instructor's use of learning styles can make teaching a sport to an amateur more effective.

In her article "What's Your Learning Style?," Janet Nelson reports that recreational sports instructors are realizing the benefits of appealing to different kinds of learning styles in students. Psychological research indicates that individuals have four different learning styles that correspond to basic personality types: watching, thinking, feeling or doing. A test was developed to identify these styles in schools and businesses, but sports instructors are now using this approach and have noticed that the most common type is the visual learner. Consequently, recreational athletes (or beginners and intermediates) can benefit from this approach because it makes learning a new sport less intimidating. In using this approach, sports instructors try to appeal to all four learning styles while offering positive feedback and taking the student's feelings into consideration. Ultimately, the most important point is the idea of modeling or "the process by which a student develops a mental image of how to do something" (2). However, the key for instructors is to break down all steps of the modeling process into stages, and to avoid introducing any one stage too early or a student might quit because of feeling intimidated. When done properly, therefore, a sports instructor's use of learning styles can make teaching a sport to an amateur more effective.