

Summary Assignment

Rough Draft: Tuesday, August 30

Final Draft Date: Tuesday, Sept 6

50 points

Your summary will include the following things:

- ❑ A correctly formatted MLA-style Works Cited entry for the article
- ❑ An accurate summary of the article's content (1-3 paragraphs)
- ❑ In class, you will work with a partner to create a 5-sentence "master summary" of your essay. This exercise will focus you on the essentials, which will help you revise your own individual 2-3 paragraph essay.

STEP #1-- In class you will select or be assigned an essay from the education chapter of *Reading the World*. Read the essay introduction in class and talk about it with your partner—what do you expect in the essay?

STEP #2 -- Summarizing

You will be writing the summary to demonstrate your complete comprehension of the source.

An effective summary :

- ❑ Gives an accurate picture of what the article said
- ❑ Includes all important information
- ❑ Excludes extra or unimportant information
- ❑ Reflects the balance of information in the original article
- ❑ Reads fluently
- ❑ Can be understood by someone who has not read the original
- ❑ Runs less than 20% of the original in length

STEP #3: Bring your draft to class on Tuesday, August 30th. If you let your partner down and do not have a draft on Tuesday, your final summary will not be eligible for a grade higher than a C.

On Tuesday, you will use all the drafts on your essay to create a 5-slide outline of the essay. Use both your essays to find the structure of the original—note places where you might want to add or edit your summary.

Step #4: Revise your writing for cohesion and correctness. Have another person who is NOT working on that chapter read your summary and response. In class, someone else will be asked to outline the chapter from your summary and to summarize how your response builds on their understanding of the chapter content.

Step #5: Turn in revised summary on Tuesday, September 6

Response Assignment

For the response, you will select one of the essays from the education chapter of *Reading the World*—either the one you worked with or one that you learned about during the summary presentations. On Thursday, September 15, we will be visiting the Human Being Project. I will ask you to post your own answer to the question “How does education make you a better human being?” as well as take notes on the answers others have given. Your response paper will focus on a variation of one of these questions:

- ✓ *To what degree does the student posting confirm, support, extend on or update the ideas expressed in the “classic” essay from book?*
- ✓ *To what extent does the student posting refute, recast, disprove, or disagree with the ideas expressed in the “classic” essay from book?*

Your paper will include the following things:

- ❑ An introduction that raises a point YOU want to make—this is not the original essay’s thesis. This has to do with what you want to say—perhaps you think that the author’s point about education is universal across all cultures and times or perhaps you think their ideas are from too different a time to be relevant.
- ❑ An ultra-brief summary of the article’s content (include the title of the article and the author’s name)
- ❑ A short (2-4 page) essay inspired by the original article and the student’s reflection on the value of education—it could be an analysis of the claim, a comparison between the author’s view and the anonymous poster’s and yours, or an expansion on the ideas by connecting the poster’s content and your own experiences.
- ❑ A correctly formatted MLA-style Works Cited entry at the end of the paper

STEP #1-- Review all of the choices and select the article you feel you have something to say on. We are looking for comments that will expand your audience’s understanding of the text and its significance.