



ENGL 1013 Essay Assignment 1: Summary

In the Summary, you will present a source text's main ideas in fewer words than the original. You must write your Summary **objectively**; in other words, do not express your own opinions or judgments on the source text or the topic it covers. **You must remain neutral.**

Introduction:

Your introduction should provide readers with basic information: the name of the source text, the author, and his/her thesis statement. The introduction should also provide an essay map, which gives a layout of your essay.

1. Combine your paraphrase of the source text's thesis with the author's name and the text's title.

Example: *In "Understanding Godzilla," John Doe elaborates on why Americans have come to love the skyscraper-sized lizard from Japanese film.*

2. Identify the thesis statement and supporting points of the source text, and establish the order (your essay map) in which you will discuss those supporting points.

Example: *Doe explains that Americans' fascination with Godzilla comes from the adrenaline rush of being scared, the fact that he has become a cultural icon, and even a strange feeling of sympathy for the monster.*

Body:

The body provides support for your thesis statement. The body of your essay can contain as many paragraphs as you need to summarize each point in your essay map.

Important considerations for writing the body:

1. Follow the order outlined in your essay map.
2. Use quotation and paraphrase to show what the author has to say about those points. When you quote, you use the author's words directly, and you are required to put them in quotation marks. When you paraphrase, you put the author's ideas into your own words.
3. Use transitions between paragraphs, ideas, and even sentences to improve readability. Examples of transitions include "in addition," "next," "first/second/third/etc.," "finally."
4. Focus on major ideas instead of details, and avoid any repetition of ideas or evidence present in the original source.

Conclusion:

Unlike a more comprehensive essay, a summary does not need an overt conclusion; however, indicate the end of your essay by explaining that you have reached the final supporting point in the source text.

Example: *Finally, Doe argues that many viewers actually feel a degree of sympathy for Godzilla, despite the monster's destructive tendencies.*