**The 500-word article summary**

Work with your team to decide what general things to do research on: context, history, technical/scientific aspects. You may want to split this up among the members, but the idea is to gather as much baseline technical information as you can about your problem/issue that you’ll be using in both your long Technical Report and for your website and presentation.

The departmental assignment reads:

*Individually, you will write a 500-word summary of a technical or scientific article that demonstrates: 1. ability to identify key processes and concepts in a professional science or technology article. 2. ability to describe complex processes and concepts clearly and concisely. 3. an awareness of audience. The summary should cite the article and any quotes following APA format.*

As you do this research, you’ll also be looking for terms that are commonly used when talking about this problem/issue – those terms will be what your team splits up among the members to do research on in the next individual assignment: the 750-word expanded definition.

Here’s the process for finding good articles and writing the summary:

**First,** use the [library’s journal databases](https://library.citytech.cuny.edu/) (navigate to Start Your Research > Find Articles > A/Academic Search Complete or I/IEEE Explore) to find an article of sufficient length (< 4 pages) that focuses on your team’s problem/topic. Save the PDF of the article some place safe so that you can easily return to it later.

**Second,** read the article from start to finish. The best way to do this is to do a quick first look, focusing on the abstract if there is one, the introduction, and the conclusion. As you go through, look for subheads and tables because they’ll also give you some basic information that will make reading the whole article easier. Then go back and read the whole thing, annotating as you go.

**Third,** write a [reverse outline](https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/process/reverseoutlines/) of the article by reading each paragraph again, putting the article away, typing one sentence in your own words summarizing that single paragraph, reading the next paragraph, writing one sentence summarizing it, etc. until the end of the article. This not only helps you focus on what the paragraph is really about, it will also give you your own base outline for your summary.

**Fourth,** type it up using the template/example below. Essentially, you’re writing a long memo.

**Fifth,** upload it to the 500-word article summary folder on the class Google Drive.

**Due 6/9.**

**Here is a template for the article summary.** The Lorem ipsum jibberish is actually what designers use to imitate text when they’re trying to demonstrate how to lay out something and don’t want anybody to pay attention to the text itself.

TO:    Prof. Blain

FROM: Your Name

DATE:   6/9/2021

SUBJECT: 500-Word Summary of Article About Virtual Reality

The following is a 500-word summary of a peer-reviewed article about tracking human bodies in virtual reality. The authors discuss the body tracking software that they developed called Pfinder by showing how the software was developed, tested, and improved. According to the authors, “To address this need we have developed a real-time system called Pfinder (“person finder”) that substantially solves the problem for arbitrarily complex but single-person fixed-camera situations” (Wren et al., 1997, p. 780).

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Reference

Wren, C. R., Azarbayejani, A., Darrell, T., & Pentland, A. P. (1997). Pfinder: Real-time tracking of the human body. *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence*, 19(7), 780-785. https://doi.org/10.1109/34.598236