

**WRITING THROUGH THE RHETORICAL MODES**  
**COMPONENTS OF**  
**A ONE PARAGRAPH SUMMARY**

**Components of a One Paragraph Summary:**

1. In the first sentence of your summary if possible:
  - Genre of the essay/article
  - Author's name
  - Title of the essay/article
  - Author's thesis statement
2. In the next 2-3 sentences identify how the writer legitimizes his/her thesis
  - These may be considered the author's supporting details.
  - For a short summary, do not use direct quotations; choose and paraphrase the author's ideas in your own academic language.
3. In the last sentence, paraphrase the author's concluding idea
  - Always reflect the author's conclusion in a summary to give a sense of the beginning, middle, and end of the original text.

**Helpful Tips for Summaries**

- List the points of support in the order they appear in the text
- Keep the summary in third person (avoid "you")
- Refer to the article in present tense
- Don't give your opinion about the author's ideas. Save this for your essay.
- If you have source information available, such as publication date or the name of the larger volume, you might include this as well.

A possible format for the opening sentence of the summary might be:

In the [genre] "\_\_\_\_\_ [title] \_\_\_\_\_," \_\_\_\_\_ [author's name] \_\_\_\_\_ argues that \_\_\_\_\_ [author's thesis] \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: After you get use to compressing this information, experiment with different forms.

To avoid plagiarism, credit the author/s in **every** sentence of a one paragraph summary.

For example, in the supporting points:

- According to [name]....
- Furthermore, [name] states....
- [Name] continues this idea by showing....
- On this same point, [name] shows....

Credit the author/s as well in the concluding sentence:

- [Name] concludes with the idea that....
- To finish, [name] says....
- [Name] wraps up this article by stating....

In closing, [name] shows...



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