

## Guidelines for Writing an Article Summary

Occasionally you will be assigned an Article Summary. This type of writing assignment involves reading an article from a magazine such as *Discover*, *Natural History*, *ScienceDaily*, etc. and writing a brief summary of that article. The format and content requirements for this summary are very specific, and your grade will depend not only on the accuracy of your summary but also on the correctness of its format. Typically the article will be available online. The function of an article summary is to distill the important concepts and hypotheses of the author(s) and provide the reader with a brief description of the examples used to illustrate the concepts and support their hypotheses. Usually this type of assignment is worth 25 points.

### Important!

It is absolutely imperative that your article summary is written in your own words. Any plagiarism, regardless of how minor or unintentional it might be, will result in a grade of zero for the assignment; no exceptions, none.

### Sections of the Article Summary:

Your summary will consist of four different sections, each with its own unique function. Be sure that you include each section, clearly labeled, with the appropriate information.

1. Title and Source (worth 5/25 points): The first section of the summary is simply a complete documentation of the Title and Source of the article. This should include the following information in a list format.
  - a. The Author(s); last name first, first name last.
  - b. Title of the article.
  - c. Source of the article; Discover Magazine, ScienceDaily, etc. This is not the web address. Include the volume where appropriate.
  - d. Date the article was published.
  - e. Web address when appropriate.
2. General Topic (worth 5/25 points): The second section of the summary will be a short paragraph describing the major topic(s) discussed in the article. This should include a description of the important concepts, hypotheses, arguments presented by the authors in the article. Do not go into a great amount of detail in this section. Only present the basic information necessary to inform a reader of what the article is "all about." Use your own words and avoid quotes.
3. Major Points/Examples (worth 10/25 points): List the three most important points or examples the author(s) used to illustrate their point or support their hypotheses. Include for each of these a specific example from the article. Use your own words and avoid quotes.
4. Your reaction/impressions to the article (worth 5/25 points): Write a brief paragraph describing your impressions or reactions to the article. This could include positive or negative comments, what you found most interesting and informative, what you learned from the article, etc. Provide specific examples to illustrate your points. Don't just tell me you found the article boring or interesting; tell me why.

### Other Considerations:

1. Be sure your summary is written in your own words. Plagiarisms will result in a failing grade.
2. Avoid directly quoting from the article; again use your own words.
3. The assignment must be typed or word processed.
4. You are encouraged to email me your assignment. If you do, it must be as an attachment in Microsoft Word (.doc) or Rich Text Format (.rtf) format. Use only your school email account.
5. If you do email the assignment, be sure to include the assignment number (5-A, etc.) in the subject line of the email.
6. Be sure you include your name and the due date of the assignment.