

They Say I Say - Chapter 2 Summary

"Her Point Is"

The Art of Summarizing

Put Yourself in Their Shoes

"[When summarizing play the] "believing home," in which you try to inhabit the worldview of those whose conversation you are joining ... and try to see ... their perspective"

It's important to properly summarize what "They Say" and the most effective summaries only paint the original authors view. The reader should only be able to distinguish the original authors ideas from your summary.

"If [you cannot suspend your own views] you are likely to produce summaries that are so obviously biased that they undermine your credibility with readers"

It's important to allow your reader to develop their own view of what you are summarizing before being exposed to yours.

Know Where You are Going

"A good summary ... has a focus or spin that allows the summary to fit with your own agenda while still being true to the text you are summarizing."

While it's important to not let your own ideas influence how you summarize, it is effective to let your ideas frame what your summarize.

"Writing a good summary means not just representing an author's view accurately, but doing to in a way that fits your own compositions larger agenda."

Summarizing Satirically

"[When] a writer deliberately gives his or her own spin to someone else's argument in order to reveal a glaring shortcoming in it."

Allows the writers to use a summary of what their original author wrote to find contradictions or discrepancies without providing their own analysis. Like on "The Daily Show".

Signal Verbs

"To do just to the authors you cite ... use vivid and precise signal verbs as often as possible."

Bland introductions of summaries can undermine the tone of what the author originally said and take away from the action that you are trying to introduce.

Templates for Introducing Summaries and Quotations

She advocates _____.
They celebrate the fact that _____.
_____, he admits.

Verbs

for Making Claims

Argue	Insist
Assert	Observe
Believe	Remind us
Claim	Report
Emphasize	Suggest

for Expressing Agreement

Acknowledge	Endorse
Admire	Extol
Agree	Praise
Celebrate	Reaffirm
Corroborate	Support
Do Not Deny	Verify

for Questioning or Disagreeing

Complain	Qualify
Complicate	Question
Contend	Refute

Contradict	Reject
Deny	Renounce
Deplore	Repudiate

for Making Recommendations

Advocate	Implore
Call For	Plead
Demand	Recommend
Encourage	Urge
Exhort	Warn