

Writing a SUMMARY of an article

The purpose of a summary is to give the reader a clear, objective picture of the original text. Most importantly, the summary restates only the main points of a text or a lecture without giving examples or details, such as dates, numbers or statistics.

Your summary should include:

Introduction

- Start with a summary or overview of the article which includes the author's name and the title of the article.
- Finish with a statement that states the main idea of the article.

Body Paragraphs

- Each paragraph focuses on a separate main idea and just the most important details from the article.
- Put the ideas from the article into your own words. Avoid copying phrases and sentences from the article.
- Use transitional words and phrases to connect ideas.

Concluding Paragraph

- Summarize the main idea and the underlying meaning of the article.

Guidelines for writing a summary of an article:

- State the main ideas of the article.
- Identify the most important details that support the main ideas.
- Write your summary in your own words; avoid copying phrases and sentences from the article unless they're direct quotations.
- Express the underlying meaning of the article, not just the superficial details.
- Your summary should be about one third of the length of the original article.

Defining the genre of the article:

Feature article:

A feature article gives information of human interest. Feature articles are generally the stories in newspapers and magazines other than straight news stories, editorials, or advertising. In addition, because of their human interest, they attempt to involve the reader emotionally. Feature article is more similar to fiction because it tells a story and is less formal than a news article. A feature article can be published at any point, it is often interesting to read a year after it was written.

News article:

A news article is time-sensitive and of immediate interest (election results, an accident, a robbery report, a product launch). A news article reports the facts: who, what, where, when, why, and how. It is written in a straightforward, concise reporting style.

Scholarly article:

- Articles are written by an authority or expert in the field
- The language includes specialized terms and the jargon of the discipline
- Usually have a narrow or specific subject focus
- Contains original research, experimentation, or in-depth studies in the field
- Written for researchers, professors, or students in the field