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They Say I Say Summary

Chapter 2 of “They Say I Say” (article) opens with how to summarize. Now seeing as we are learning how to summarize, this is a good way of teaching. What they cover in this chapter is how to properly summarize, going over topics from writing the introduction, the middle paragraphs and even the conclusions. How to summarize is one of the most important necessities to have as a writer and as a student. It helps to show your viewpoint related that of the authors and it shows how differently and how related all topics are to each other. Chapter 2 of They Say I Say was a great introduction into how to summarize and how to put yourself into the authors’ shoes. Summarizing is important for everyone to build your skills for reading and writing articles. It will help you narrow down the highlights of each text while also getting your point across. Everyone should know how to summarize as it helps us to give a plain overview of the given text, while also saying exactly what happened in a less period of time then simply re-reading the given text.

Writing a summary of what someone else wrote is not hard to do. But writing a good summary of how the author wrote their topic and how they came to their conclusion is more difficult because it requires the reader to analyze and dig deep into the authors mind to see where they are coming from and where they are going. Great writers know how to do this well. They say to balance what the author is saying with the writers focus and to put yourself into the authors shoes, but what I think would be the best alternative is to combine the two together. Give it a little mix. Use your knowledge and expertise to write what the author is talking about with your life experience and what you want to learn from it. Summarizing is an art and it doesn’t just include writing what you read, but using verbs to analyze your writing with what the author has to say. Writing a summary is a skill needed by many. Many people think writing a summary is simply pulling out text from a given article or text and re-reading it without all of the jibber jabber in the middle. What most readers do not realize is that this is not the case. In order for a summary to be a well written piece of work, it requires the writer to go further than just pulling text out of a article or text, but rather elaborate on the authors point with their own point of view.

Writing a summary consists of an introduction, the middle paragraphs explaining what you talk about in the introduction, and a conclusion. The introduction should include the overall summary of what the chapter had included. The body paragraphs should include the topics that you include in your introduction, the ones that you form your paper around. Then you need to ease your way into a conclusion. This conclusion should include a summary of what you wrote and it also serves as a place to get your last thoughts down on paper.

Writing a summary introduces more than what people think. It is not just simply stating down on paper what the author wrote and what the author had to say but also your own thoughts on the topic and what you had to contribute to the authors previous viewpoint. Another item to take away from this chapter is that using verbs to introduce new topics into your summary will help with the placement of items.

In conclusion, summarizing another authors’ work should not just be writing down and saying what they said. Read the article or piece of work first and then “balance what the original author is saying with the writer’s own focus” (They Say I Say) as well as putting yourself in their shoes to see where and how they made the conclusion that they did. Summarizing is a skill needed by most and to do so means you look deeper than the text and into the authors thoughts.

**Citation:**

Patricia Bizzel. *They Say I Say*. College of the Holy Cross.

<https://moodle.clarkson.edu/pluginfile.php/571061/mod_resource/content/0/TheySayISay.pdf>