

SUMMARY WRITING SECRETS



STEP-BY-STEP
SUMMARY WRITING EXERCISES

The Summary

A **summary** is a condensed rewording of information.

A summary consists of a main idea, usually in the first sentence, and any relevant details that support this main idea.

SUMMARY EXAMPLE

The diagram shows a summary text enclosed in a large black rectangular box. The text is: "In 'Summary Master' Payne Kantright argues that he should not be the Summary Master due to his lack of skills. Payne cannot locate or invent a main idea. Deleting irrelevant and repetitive ideas gives him trouble too. He is unable to superordinate information." There are two callout boxes. One box, labeled "Main idea in the first sentence", has an arrow pointing to the first sentence. Another box, labeled "Relevant support", has a line pointing to the second sentence.

Main idea in the first sentence

Relevant support

In "Summary Master" Payne Kantright argues that he should not be the Summary Master due to his lack of skills. Payne cannot locate or invent a main idea. Deleting irrelevant and repetitive ideas gives him trouble too. He is unable to superordinate information.

Summary writing is useful because the process increases your understanding of what you hear or read.

Using summaries is also an efficient way to present information in your essays.

One-Sentence Summaries

One-sentence summaries are written by answering **Who, What, Where, When, Why,** and **How** questions:

Who is the subject?

What action did the subject perform?

Where was the action performed?

When was the action performed?

Why was the action performed?

How was the action performed?

Writing one-sentence summaries is a fabulous way to begin your summary practice.

One-Sentence Summary Exercises

Directions: study the model of the progression, and then perform the exercises.

Read the original text:

The Wall Street Journal

Sunday, August 29, 2010

Dark Sarcasms in the Classroom

Seniors Against Praise Society (S.A.P.S.) calls for a new emphasis in our schools and homes on lowering the self-esteem of young people. SAPS reported that confidence in young people is actually overrated as a personality trait. Confident people are not worried about approval of others; they are able to be inconsiderate without guilt. The current trend of confidence in young people must change now! Over-compensation due to low self esteem is what made this country great. SAPS advises parents and educators to point out flaws and weaknesses when they see them.

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Then answer the **Who, What, Where, When, Why,** and **How** questions using single words or short phrases.

Who? Parents and educators

What? Stop trend of confidence in kids

When? Immediately

Where? Schools and homes

How? Point out weaknesses in kids

Why? Overconfident kids are inconsiderate

Once you have answered the questions, combine the information in a one-sentence summary.

One-Sentence Summary Model

In schools and homes, parents and educators
where **who**
must immediately stop the trend of over-
when **what**
confidence in kids by pointing out kids'
how
weaknesses because overconfident kids are
why
just plain surly.

Directions: Answer the **Who, What, Where, When, Why** and **How** questions using single words or short phrases and write a one-sentence summary.

One-Sentence Summary 1 (with scaffolding)



Who? Shama Llama

What? kill the great white shark El Blanco

How? with the help of shark fisherman Jimmy Dent

Where? in the ocean

When? when he finds El Blanco

Why? revenge for biting his head

One-Sentence Summary: With the help of

(Who is going to help?)

Shama Llama has vowed to

when he finds him in the because he wants

(Where?)

One-Sentence Summary 2

Louisville Sc

Sunday, August 29, 2010

Evaluation Hurt

In recent years, students have been able to comment on their professors' in-class performances online, but this convenience has come with a huge emotional cost. Louisville State University professor Stewart Pidd reported that all those negative student evaluations have hurt his feelings. "When you give of yourself to the kids, and they write things like 'dis *:O) suxs! Dnt taK cls!' it just hurts," Pidd told this reporter in a phone interview from his office.

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Text Slang Translation:
"Dis *:O) suxs! Dnt taK cls."
"This clown sucks. Don't take his class."

Who? _____

What? _____

How? _____

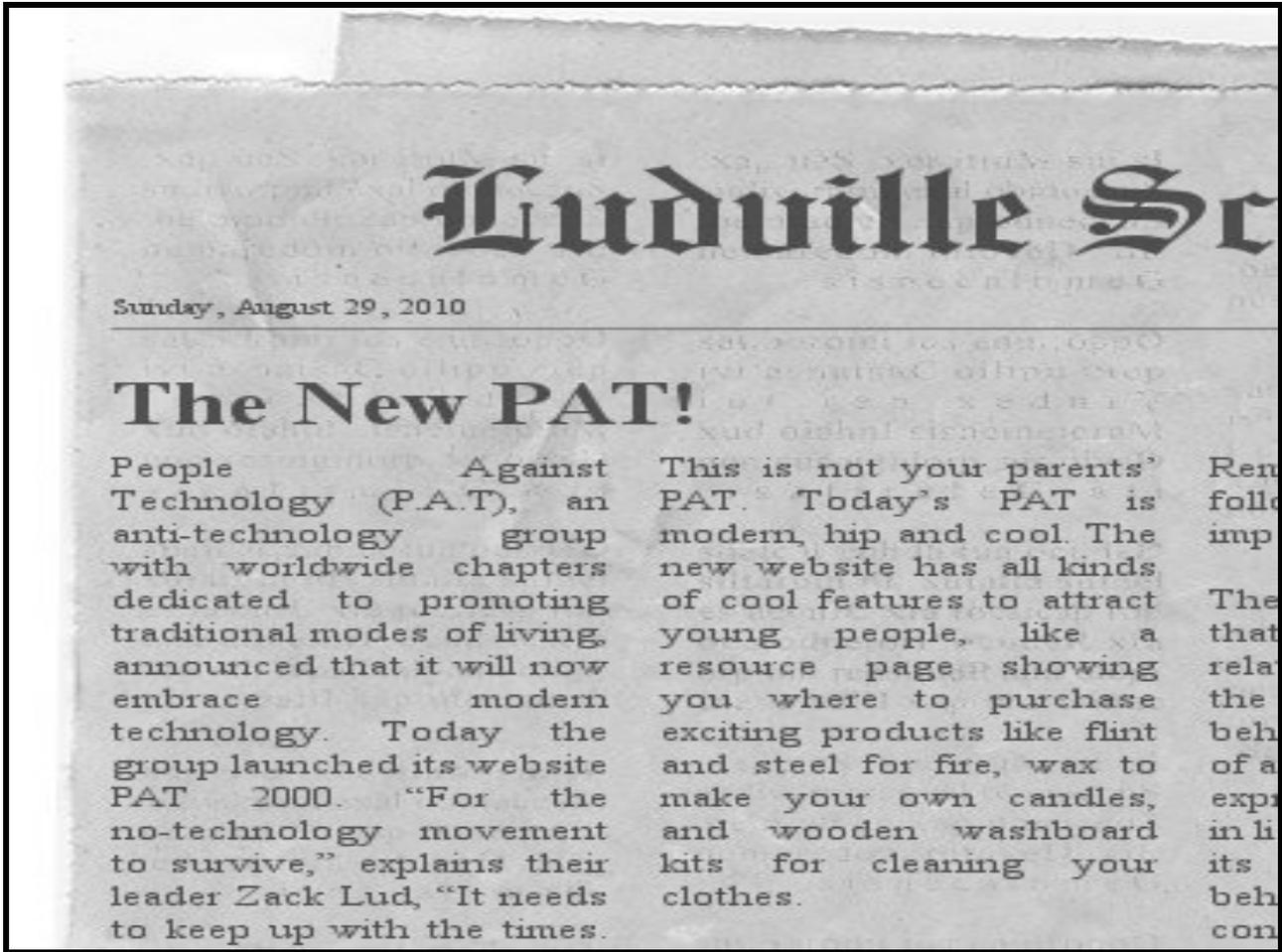
Where? _____

When? _____

Why? _____

One-Sentence Summary: _____

One-Sentence Summary 3



Who? _____

What? _____

How? _____

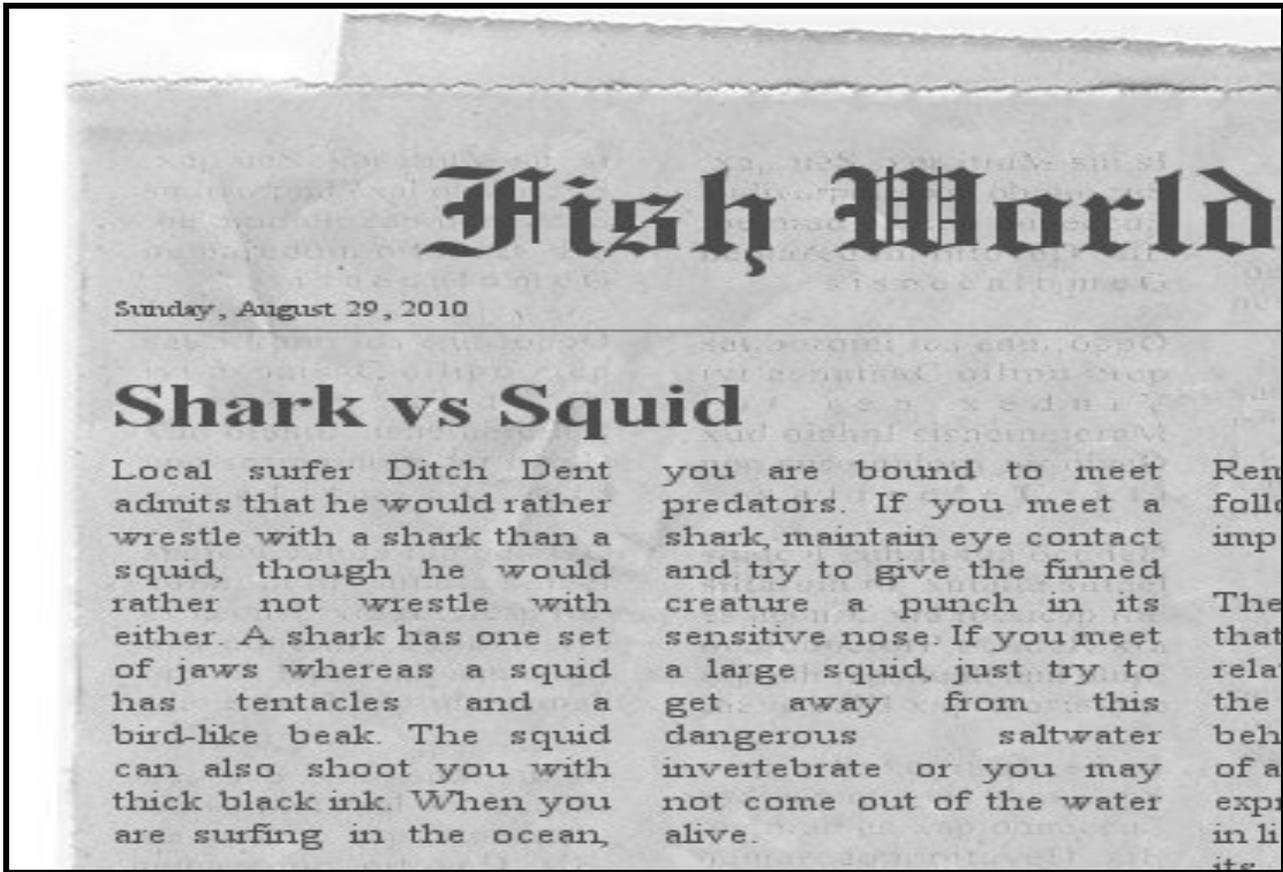
Where? _____

When? _____

Why? _____

One-Sentence Summary: _____

One-Sentence Summary 4



Who? _____

What? _____

How? _____

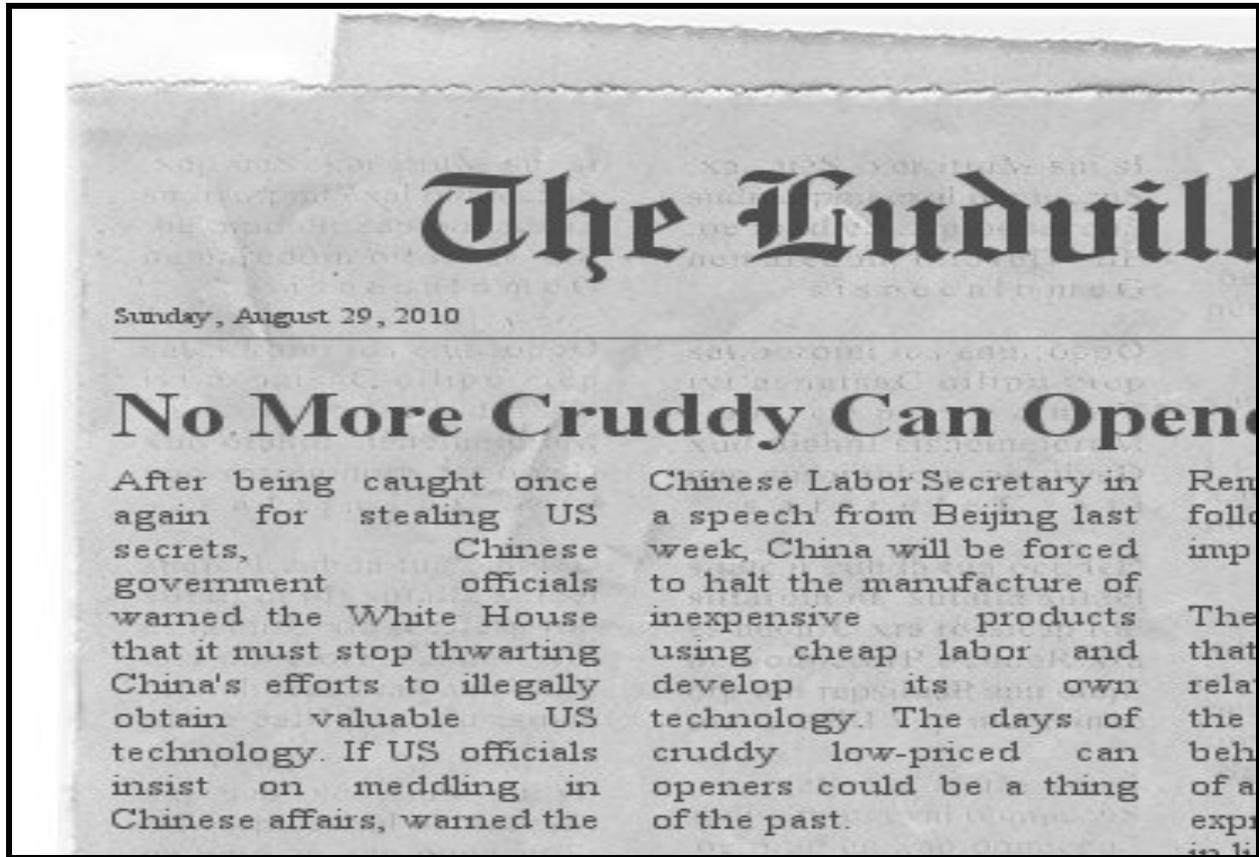
Where? _____

When? _____

Why? _____

One-Sentence Summary: _____

One-Sentence Summary 5



Who? _____

What? _____

How? _____

Where? _____

When? _____

Why? _____

One-Sentence Summary: _____

SUMMARY WRITING

SECRETS FROM THE 1970'S

Research conducted more than thirty years ago by A. L. Brown and J. D. Day shows that good writers perform specific tasks when they summarize.

Brown and Day identified five vital summary writing subtasks:

Five Summary Secrets

1. Finding the main idea written in the text
2. Inventing the main idea if none is explicitly written
3. Deleting irrelevant text
4. Deleting redundant text
5. Superordinating details (compressing information)

The research done by Brown and Day carries the Attack The Text Seal of Approval.



In the next series of exercises, you will first practice performing the five skills separately. Then you will integrate the skills to perform the larger task of writing a summary.

Finding the Main Idea

The main idea of a summarized work is an overview of the topic written in one or two sentences.

This idea usually appears at the beginning or the end of the text.

The main idea dictates what the supporting ideas will be:

Main idea: Lulu loves all aspects of the summarizing process.

The following details support the main idea:

She loves reading a text closely for meaning.

She especially likes cutting away irrelevant material, and finding the controlling idea and relevant supporting details.

Most of all, she thrives on revising her summary multiple times until it is perfect.

Directions: read each sentence and underline the main idea. All the other sentences will support the main idea.

EXAMPLE

- a) Taryn Updaplace, a professional organizer, forgot where she parked her car.
- b) She accidentally washed off the note she had written on her hand.
- c) Then she forgot to take her dog to the canine psychologist.
- d) She is a very disorganized professional organizer.

← The first three points support the final claim that Taryn is disorganized.

1. a) Her dog, Sugar, attacked the postal carrier, Millie.
- b) He broke his leash in the dog park and bit a three-legged chow chow with a skin disorder.
- c) He barked at a cute baby in a buggy and flashed his teeth.
- d) Taryn the organizer should get rid of that mutt.

2.
 - a) When Sugar visited Lulu the dog psychologist, Lulu gave him a doggie treat.
 - b) It is no wonder people say that Dr. Lulu relates well to animals.
 - c) She played fetch with him.
 - d) She talked to Sugar in a friendly but assertive sing-song voice.

3.
 - a) If Taryn the professional organizer text-messages her boyfriend, he never texts her back.
 - b) He never takes her out on dates, just comes over and eats her food and drinks all her Diet Cokes.
 - c) Taryn thinks maybe she should break-up with him.
 - d) Yesterday while she was shopping, she met a new guy who seems really cool; his name is Melvin Atonin.

4.
 - a) The security guard team take their jobs very seriously at The BeauGus Superstore.
 - b) The security supervisor Jo-Jo hides an extra Tazer in his boot in case he loses the one he carries in his holster.
 - c) Guards Frank and Billy practice their MMA moves in the break room so they are in top fighting shape if something bad goes down.
 - d) They recently installed extra cameras in the store using their own money.

5.
 - a) Miss Tiffany Ting's Kung Fu master instructor, Mr. Chu, weighs 102 pounds.
 - b) He is 90 years old.
 - c) He has a friendly smile
 - d) He seems harmless.

6.
 - a) Judge Beanbarf ought to lock up Mel.
 - b) Mel has a rap sheet longer than the 15 freeway.
 - c) He showed no remorse for his crime of noodle theft.
 - d) If he's behind bars, he won't be able to commit any more crimes.

Summary Tip

An aid to finding the main idea is to read the text a number of times.

Inventing a Topic Sentence

Sometimes the story, essay, or report you are summarizing will not contain an explicitly stated main idea. If this is the case, you need to generate a topic sentence yourself.



Paraphrase Fun Fact

In their research, Brown and Day discovered that inventing a main idea is one of the hardest summarizing tasks. The skills you gained writing one-sentence summaries will come in handy here.

To invent a topic sentence, you need to read the text closely and find a general idea running through it.

Then ask yourself what the writer is saying about this general idea. What is the writer's main focus?

Note the common thread running through the following sentences:

The Psychic Surfer rips on short boards.

He shreds on fish designs.

He even tears it up on long boards.

The general idea is "surfboards."

Keeping in mind that the verbs "rips," "shreds," and "tears" are slang for surfing well, you must ask yourself, *What about the surfboards?*

The answer to that question is the topic sentence of your summary.

Topic Sentence: The Psychic Surfer rides many types of surfboards well.

Directions: read the supporting details, find the general idea running through the examples, and invent a main idea.

EXAMPLE

- a) Dee Manos bought a mobile home.
- b) He fixed it up.
- c) He sold it for a huge profit.

Common thread: real estate

Topic Sentence: Dee Manos was successful in real estate.

- 5. a) The tires on Taryn's Fiat are bald.
- b) The right fender is dented.
- c) The red paint is chipped and fading.

Common thread: _____

Topic Sentence: _____

- 6. a) Taryn's dog Sugar will not eat dried dog food.
- b) He will not eat expensive canned dog food.
- c) He will only eat sesame seared yellowtail.

Common thread: _____

Topic Sentence: _____

Review

- 1. The m_____ idea is an overview of a topic written in one or two sentences.
- 2. Inventing a main idea is one of the (hardest / easiest) summarizing tasks.
- 3. If the work you are summarizing contains no ex_____ written main idea, you should invent your own main idea.
- 4. What are the five subtasks Brown and Day identified that good writers perform when they summarize?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

Deletion

Deleting Irrelevant Material

Because summaries condense information, you want to trim away any details that do not support the main idea. The key to identifying irrelevant details is to look at the main idea and ask which details support the main idea.

Read the following main idea:

A number of subskills make up the craft of summarizing.

Which of the following details is irrelevant to the main point?

One summary writing skill is the ability to delete irrelevant and redundant information.

Superordination of details is another important skill.

If you practice summarizing, your hair will shine and people will like you.

If you picked the last detail about nice hair and being liked you are correct.

Directions: draw a line through the irrelevant detail(s). Some or all of the details will support the main idea.

EXAMPLE

Main Idea: Payne made many punctuation errors on his last essay.

Supporting Details: a) He used a semicolon in place of a comma.

Printing an essay on a Trader Joe's shopping bag has nothing to do with making a lot of punctuation errors.

b) He failed to add an apostrophe to his possessive nouns.

c) ~~He printed off his essay on a Trader Joe's shopping bag because he wanted to go "green."~~

d) He made many comma-splice errors.

1. **Main Idea:** There are certain definite summarizing subtasks you must perform when summarizing.

Supporting Details: a) You must find the main idea written in the text.

b) You must invent your own main idea if none is explicitly written.

c) If you run out of time, you must buy a summary online written by a graduate student living in Mumbai, India.

d) Paraphrasing is not the same as summarizing.

2. **Main Idea:** Taryn the organizer doesn't seem very organized.

- Supporting Details:**
- a) She could not find her cell phone.
 - b) Her purse was a filled with junk.
 - c) She had an eagle tattoo on her right arm.
 - d) She makes notes on her hand.

3. **Main Idea:** American five-year-old Miss Tiffany Ting leads a hectic life.

- Supporting Details:**
- a) She goes to expressive dance class on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
 - b) Her Kung Fu master trains with her on Fridays.
 - c) Her parents are both lawyers.
 - d) Her parents make her do calculus for two hours a night.

4. **Main Idea:** In the old days, kids lived a simpler life.

- Supporting Details:**
- a) They might help their parents with the hunt.
 - b) They would gather food.
 - c) For fun they might play with a rock outside the cave.
 - d) They didn't have iPhones or Twitter to distract them.

5. **Main Idea:** The expressive dance teacher uses body language to communicate.

- Supporting Details:**
- a) He flails his arms wildly.
 - b) His hands claw the air.
 - c) He stops speaking midsentence by saying "and whateva. . . ."
 - d) Sometimes his facial expressions are grotesque and pig-like.

Deleting Irrelevant Details when an Idea Is Not Explicitly Stated

In this next section you will invent a main idea and then delete any irrelevant supporting details.

Directions: create a topic sentence and draw a line through the irrelevant detail.

EXAMPLE

Supporting Details: a) The auto dealer charges interest if you finance a car.

The main idea is that auto dealers charge many extra fees. The fact that there are many types has nothing to do with the main idea.

b) If you pay cash there is a \$1,000 fee.

c) They also charge for warranties.

d) ~~There were many types of nice cars on the lot.~~

Topic Sentence: Auto dealers charge many extra fees.

1. **Supporting Detail:**
- a) You need to bring your surfboard.
 - b) It wouldn't hurt to have your wetsuit either.
 - c) I hate being cold in the water.
 - d) Don't forget your wax.

Topic Sentence: You need to bring supplies.

2. **Supporting Details:**
- a) Polly wants a cute little puppy.
 - b) Polly wants a fat, tall pony.
 - c) Polly likes math.
 - d) Polly also wants a green parakeet.

Topic sentence: wants

3. **Supporting Details:**
- a) There was only the couch in the corner.
 - b) It was made of leather.
 - c) A single lamp was by the door
 - d) The coffee table was placed in the middle of the room by itself.

Topic sentence: The room was

4. **Supporting Details:**
- a) Mel lies around and watches a lot of TV.
 - b) He does a lot of sleeping.
 - c) He owns five flat screen TVs, which he bought from the back of a truck.
 - d) He doesn't like to clean up after himself.

Topic sentence: _____

5. **Supporting Details:**
- a) Lulu the dog therapist blushes when she talks to pet owners.
 - b) Sometimes she stammers when she explains a dog's mental problems.
 - c) She has trouble making eye contact with people.
 - d.) Did I mention that her office is lovely?

Topic sentence: _____

NOTE: If the original main idea is explicitly stated you must paraphrase this idea in your summary.

Review

1. Summaries (expand / compress) details.
2. Summaries consist of a topic sentence (the main idea) and any (irrelevant / relevant) details.
3. Irrelevant details (support / do not support) the main idea.
4. You should (eliminate / include) irrelevant details in your summary.
5. You (should / should not) invent a main idea if none is explicitly written.

Directions: find and underline the main idea (**Payne needs to attend summer school**), and draw a line through any irrelevant details. Then underline any relevant details.

Payne Can't Summarize

As you go over each sentence, ask if it supports the idea that Payne needs to go to summer school.

Dear Ms. Kantright,

Good morning. How are you this morning? You may be wondering why I am writing you. This is the first time I have talked to you.

Your son, Payne, needs to go to Summary Summer School because he cannot eliminate irrelevant information from his summaries.

In his last summary, he included information that did not support the summary's main point. He was summarizing information about a famous chef, and he focused on the author's love of wrist rockets as a boy, which was not really relevant.

I like wrist rockets. I had one when I was kid. It was made of fiberglass. Then I accidently shot out my dad's windshield and that was the end of my wrist rocket, but I digress.

Sincerely, Payne's Teacher, Mr. Banning Badtaste

P.S. What do you feed your kid?

Deleting Redundant Text

Redundancy is the unnecessary repetition of ideas. Do not repeat yourself when you write a summary!

Let me repeat myself: *Do not repeat yourself!*

Read the following main idea:

There are a number of reasons to be organized.

Which of the following details is redundant?

People will see you are organized and think more highly of you.

You will earn respect from others.

Being organized gives you a good feeling.

It increases efficiency.

If you picked the second detail you are correct because this sentence repeats the first detail, that being organized will win you respect.

Directions: draw a line through any redundant detail(s).

EXAMPLE

Main idea: A skate park will be a nice addition to the town.

Supporting Details: a) It will make the city more attractive to tourists.

Support b repeats support a;
Support d repeats the main
idea. Say it once! Please.

b) ~~Tourist will have an incentive to come to the city.~~

c) It will keep kids from skating in public areas where it is a safety issue.

d) ~~The addition of a skate park would be a feather in the cap of this town.~~

1. **Main Idea:** The heavy rains we had 30 days ago were beneficial.

Supporting Details: a) Last month, it was raining cats and dogs.

b) The farmers could sure use the water.

c) There will be less of a fire hazard.

d) Wet grass means no fires.

2. **Main idea:** The term “cage-free chicken” is slightly misleading.

- Supporting Details:**
- a) It stirs up images of happy chickens roaming green fields on a pastoral farm.
 - b) In truth, it just means that instead of being caged, they roam freely around the giant factory warehouse.
 - c) It is no wonder that consumers are misled by the term.

3. **Main idea:** Johnny likes baseball more than any sport.

- Supporting Details:**
- a) He enjoys the rules and structure of the game.
 - b) In fact in a recent survey, he ranked it as his number one favorite sport.
 - c) He enjoys traveling to different ballparks around America.

4. **Main idea:** Tiffany wants everything she owns to be red.

- Supporting Details:**
- a) She wants a red car and a red house.
 - b) She wants red furniture; she wants red clothes.
 - c) Red, red, red--all her possessions need to be red!

5. **Main Idea:** Dr. Lulu has always wanted to live in a skyscraper because it seems like fun.

- Supporting Details:**
- a) This is what she wants.
 - b) She has wanted this ever since she can remember.
 - c) It seems like fun, you know?

6. **Main idea:** Master Chu went through great peril to escape from communist China in the early 1950's.

- Supporting Details:**
- a) He needed to bribe corrupt communist officials.
 - b) He had to give these dishonest bureaucrats all of his money and all his clothes to look the other way.
 - c) Naked, with only a knife and his Kung Fu skills, he fought for his life on the Korean border.

Deleting Redundant Text When the Main Idea Is Not Explicitly Stated

In this progression you will delete redundant information and invent a topic sentence.

Directions: invent a main idea and draw a line through any redundant supporting idea.

EXAMPLE

- Supporting Details:**
- a) When Master Chu landed in Ludville Harbor he got a job working 20 hours a day at the guano processing factory.
 - b) Sometimes he slept in Ludville Canyon or under the newly built Ludville Pier in the cold.
 - c) He went very hungry sometimes.
 - d) ~~You might even say he starved.~~

Details c and d are redundant.

Topic sentence: Master Chu struggled when he first got to America.

1. **Supporting Details:**
- a) At 90 Master Chu just teaches two classes per week at his modest studio.
 - b) He meets his students on Mondays and Fridays.
 - c) He enjoys walks along Ludville Strand at sunset.
 - d) He likes to read 16th century Zen poetry and drink Diet Coke.

How would you describe Master Chu's life today?

Topic sentence: Master Chu's life

2. **Supporting Details:**
- a) No light could penetrate the jungle canopy.
 - b) It was very dark.
 - c) There was the smell of death and decay.
 - e) Unknown animals shrieked in the distance.

Topic sentence: The jungle was

3. **Supporting Details:**
- a) As a boy at the monastery, Master Chu washed many dishes.
 - b) He washed all the robes for the monks.
 - c) He swept the monastery floor night and day.
 - d) When he finished sweeping he washed more dishes and clothes.

Topic sentence: _____

4. **Supporting Details:**
- a) Taryn's dog, Sugar, sleeps all day.
 - b) He eats gourmet meals at night.
 - c) Nothing but the finest food goes into Sugar's gut.
 - d) At night, he goes for pleasant walks with Taryn.

Topic sentence: _____

5. **Supporting Details:**
- a) Dirty dishes are piled up on Taryn's workstation.
 - b) CD's are spread out across the desk.
 - d) Papers and unpaid bills are piled high.
 - c) It is a mountain of papers!

Topic sentence: Taryn's workstation

Review

1. Redundancy is the (necessary / unnecessary) repetition of ideas.
2. You should include irrelevant details in your summary. (T / F)
3. Inventing a topic sentence when none is explicitly written is the (easiest / hardest) subskill to master.
4. If the original main idea is explicitly stated you must paraphrase it in your summary. (T / F)

Directions: underline the main idea (**the audience should sell nothing**), and draw a line through the **irrelevant** and the **redundant** details. Underline relevant support.

~~Hello, my name is~~ James Dent. ~~Welcome to tonight's~~
~~presentation.~~ Before we start, I'd like to thank the
sponsors "Nothing Inc." I would like to add that I'm
really nervous. So please bear with me. My talk
tonight is on becoming the owner of profitable
franchises. Can you hear me on the microphone okay?
I'm here because I would like to interest you in a
business opportunity. We are selling NOTHING! That is
right, you will be selling nothing. Let me repeat
myself, you charge people for nothing! Think about it:
Your overhead is low. You don't have to pay for labor
costs. Your production and material costs are zero!
Why give excellent service or a quality product, when
you can give nothing? I know I said this already, but
I'd like to thank the sponsor.

I am James Dent!

Goodnight!

--Transcript of "Nothing Inc. Speech"

Superordinating Ideas

The term “**superordination**,” as it applies to writing summaries, means to replace a larger unit of language with smaller units of language.

When you superordinate, you are compressing information.

You will typically superordinate nouns and verbs.

For example, instead of writing “cows, chickens, and pigs” the summarizer would write “livestock.”

The verbs “dog paddle, backstroke, and freestyle” can be replaced with the category word “swim.”

In both examples the nouns and verbs have been superordinated.

Directions: replace the longer noun phrases with superordinate nouns.

EXAMPLE

Tonia misuses periods, commas, question marks, semicolons, and quotations marks.

Tonia misuses punctuation marks.

1. The seagulls, finches, and pelicans begged.

Superordination: _____ begged.

2. Siddhartha bought a tent, a portable stove, and a sleeping bag.

Superordination: Siddhartha bought _____.

3. The right, left, and center fielders struck out.

Superordination: The out _____ struck out.

4. Stewart surfed breaks in the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern, and Arctic.

Superordination: Stewart surfed breaks in the five _____.

Directions: replace longer units of language with (a) superordinate verb(s).

EXAMPLE

The hawk glided, swooped, and soared.

Superordination: The hawk flew.

1. The General mamboed, waltzed, and Cha Cha Cha-ed.

Superordination: The General _____

2. He dog paddles and does the back stroke.

Superordination: He _____

This morning, the expressive dance teacher climbed into his car, cruised down the 57 freeway, and arrived at his dance studio.

Superordination: This morning, the expressive dance teacher _____ to work.

4. The MMA competitors kicked, punched, and wrestled each other.

Superordination: The MMA competitors _____

5. As a boy Mel would not take out the trash, clean his room, or mow the lawn.

Superordination: As a boy Mel would not _____

Review

1. Redundancy is the (necessary / unnecessary) repetition of ideas.
2. You superordinate to (compress / expand) information.
3. When you summarize, you superordinate (nouns and verbs / irrelevant details).

Superordination of Verbs to Combine Sentences

Often times, when summarizing, you can replace a longer sentence or sentences with a sentence containing a superordinate verb:

Johnny took the free-range eggs out of the refrigerator. He then placed them in a pan on the stove. He stirred the yolks and whites together as the pan heated. He fried them in the pan.

The summarized sentence with a superordinate verb:

Johnny scrambled eggs.

By replacing the verbs “took,” “placed,” “stirred,” and “fried” with the superordinate verb “scrambled,” you can drastically compress information.

Directions: combine the sentences by using a superordinate verb.

EXAMPLE

When Steve needs to understand a text, he deletes irrelevant or redundant text. He also superordinates text. He searches for a controlling idea. If he can't find one explicitly written in the text, he invents his own.

Superordination: Steve summarizes to understand a text.

1. Johnny went to the baseball diamond. He pitched a no-hitter. He also hit two home runs.

Superordination: Johnny _____.

2. Last night, Payne turned in at 10:00. He tossed and turned. He dreamt he forgot to do his homework and he didn't bring his pencil. When he woke up in the morning, he felt very tired.

Superordination: Payne _____ fitfully.

3. Omar **knocked out** the first draft of his essay quickly. Then he **set** it aside for a while to “cool off.” When he **came** back to the draft, he **revised** it a few times. Then he **put** it away again. Finally, he **polished** off the draft by **printing** off a hard copy and **marking** it up with a pen. Though he **felt** he could make it better with more revisions, he **accepted** the fact that the essay was complete.

Superordination: Omar _____

4. After Taryn **added** water to the blender, she **scooped** in the orange-flavored protein powder. The fruit **made** a plopping sound as they dropped into the blender. She **plugged** her ears when she turned the blender on. In a minute, the contents were blended, and she **turned** off the blender.

Superordination: Taryn _____

Directions: superordinate both the nouns and verbs in the paragraphs.

EXAMPLE

Donna and Beau **walked** down the aisle of the church. They **exchanged** vows and rings. The next day, they **filled out** the marriage contract at the court house.
*The couple **married**.*

1. Guru Mymomi **rips off** his students on the yoga mats. He **charges** them twice the price for yoga blocks. I saw the yoga straps he sells for a third of the price in the *Yoga Lovers Journal*.

Superordination: Guru Mymomi _____ his students
Superordinate verb
 for yoga _____
Superordinate noun

2. Mel picked up some pasta noodles. In the canned food section he grabbed some sauce. Then he stuck the pasta and the sauce into his shorts. When no one was looking, he crept out of the BeauGus Superstore.

Superordination: Mel _____ the _____.
Superordinate verb **Superordinate noun**

3. Security Guard Frank, Security Guard Billy, and the supervisor Security Guard Jo-Jo Joe, had been watching Mel since he entered the store. They proceeded to take turns tailing him from a distance. When Mel made his move out the door Security Guard Frank, Security Guard Billy, and the supervisor Security Guard Jo-Jo Joe sprang on Mel, tackling him before he made it to the parking lot.

Superordination: The _____ _____ Mel.
Superordinate noun **Superordinate verb**

4. Master Chu saw Security Guard Frank, Security Guard Billy, and the supervisor Security Guard Jo-Jo Joe jump on Mel in the parking lot. Not knowing that Mel was stealing, Master Chu came to Mel's aid. When Supervisor Jo-Jo tried to shoot Master Chu with his Tazor, Chu blocked the weapon with a down windmill, torqued Jo-Jo's wrist and put him on the ground. As Frank and Billy came to Jo-Jo's aid, Master Chu took them out using the correct leverages he had learned in northern China all those years ago.

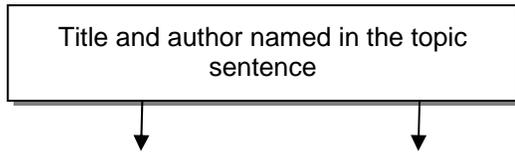
Superordination: Master Chu _____
noun **verb**
the _____.

5. The bass player, drummer, and guitarist performed "Mary Had a Little Lamb" and "Home on the Range." For the encore, they sang "Silent Night."

Superordination: The _____
Superordinate noun **Superordinate verb** **Superordinate noun**

Naming the Author in Your Topic Sentence

There are a number of ways to cite your summary. In the following section, the topic sentence (the main idea) of your summary will contain the name of the author and the name of the work.



In "Summary Master," Panye Kantright argues. . . .

Paraphrasing the Main Idea

If a main idea is not explicitly stated, you only need to add the name of the author and the work to the main idea.

If the main idea is explicitly stated in the original text, you need to put the idea in your own words.

Explicitly Stated Main Idea:

"I, Payne Kantright, respectfully withdraw my bid for Master Summarizer because I have not mastered specific skills necessary to write good summaries."

Paraphrase:

In "Summary Master," Panye Kantright argues reasons that he should not be the Summary Master due to his lack of skills.

Review

1. A s_____ is a condensed rewording of information
2. Plag_____ is a the act of taking someone else's ideas and presenting them as your own.
3. The _____ idea is an overview of the topic.

Integrating the Five Subskills

You will now integrate what you have learned to write your summaries.

In this section, follow these steps:

Step 1: Read the text.

Step 2: If you can find an explicitly stated main idea, write it out and move to Step 4. Otherwise, go to step 3.

Step 3: Invent a main idea if none exists.

Step 4: Delete irrelevant and redundant information.

Step 5: List ideas to be superordinated.

Step 6: Write a summary consisting of a topic sentence and any relevant details.

Note: If you can't find the main idea, work on deletion and subordination, and then go back and try again. The more pieces you have to a puzzle the easier it will be to solve.

Before you write your first summary on page 86, review the model on pages 83–85.

Directions: follow the six steps to write your summary.

**SUMMARY EXERSIZE
MODEL**

Step 1: Read the text.

Summary Master

I, Payne Kantright, respectfully withdraw my bid for Master Summarizer because I have not mastered specific skills necessary to write good summaries.

When it comes to finding the point of the story, my mind goes blank. It's like I have fallen off of my YZ 125 and hit my head. I read and read and read, but I can't find the main idea. If the main idea is not explicitly stated and I have to invent one, forget about it.

Because summaries condense, you are supposed to trim away any information that does not support the main idea. You are supposed to cut repeated ideas and ideas that do not support the main point. What do I do? I put them in my summaries. That is not good.

Another thing that gives me trouble is compressing supporting ideas. If there are details, I just want to put them in. The word "superordination" does not exist in my vocabulary.

All these things make me a bad summarizer and not worthy of the title "Master Summarizer." But at least I'm a good listener, and I wear stylish clothes.

Directions: follow the six steps to write your summary.

Original Text with Annotations
(Main Idea Underlined and Deletions Marked)

Step 1: Read the text.

Summary Master

Main idea

I, Payne Kantright, respectfully withdraw my bid for Master Summarizer because I have not mastered specific skills necessary to write good summaries.

When it comes to finding the point of the story, my mind goes blank. ~~It's like I have fallen off of my YZ 125 and hit my head.~~
I read and read and read, but I can't find the main idea. If the main idea is not explicitly stated and I have to invent one, forget about it.

Because summaries condense, you are supposed to trim away any information that does not support the main idea. ~~You are supposed to cut repeated ideas and ideas that do not support the main point.~~ What do I do? I put them in my summaries. ~~That is not good.~~ Payne no likey.

Another thing that gives me trouble is compressing supporting ideas. ~~If there are details, I just want to put them in.~~ The word "superordination" does not exist in my vocabulary.

~~All these things make me a bad summarizer and not worthy of the title "Master Summarizer."~~ But at least I'm a good listener, and I wear stylish clothes.

SUMMARY EXERSIZE MODEL

Step 2: Find explicitly written main idea, write out below, and move on to step 4.
(If the text does not contain an explicitly stated main idea, go to Step 3.)

"I, Payne Kantright, respectfully withdraw my bid for Master Summarizer because I have not mastered specific skills necessary to write good summaries."

Step 3: Invent a main idea if none exists.

Step 4: Draw a line through any irrelevant and redundant information.

See model on the next page.

Step 5: List general ideas to be superordinated.

can't locate main idea deleting material can't superordinate

Step 6: Write the introductory sentence of your summary and add relevant details.

Explicitly stated main idea has been paraphrased.

In "Summary Master," Payne Kantright argues that he should not be
the Summary Master due to his lack of skills. Payne cannot
locate or invent a main idea. Deleting irrelevant and repetitive ideas
gives him trouble too. He is unable to superordinate information.

Summary 1

Step 1: Read text.

The Psychic Surfer: Super-Hero Abuse

Psychic Surfer abuses his superpowers to dominate the other surfers. When he is out surfing, these powers give him an unfair advantage over mortals.

At the Pistachio Point Masters' Tournament, he would paddle to the spot where the set wave would break long before the wave was visible. At the Ludville Strand Invitation, he used his powers to communicate with dolphins, who then towed him into the best waves.

He ruined the waves at Ludville Reef with the wind. He caused the snow to fall at the beach break at Ludville Strand. At the point, he brought down hail from the sky.

Last week while Psychic Surfer was surfing, Eddie Glass almost drowned. Butcher Coe got hit in the head with his surfboard. Stewart Pidd got stung by a stingray. This hardly seems like a coincidence.

Let me repeat this: Psychic Surfer abuses his superpowers to dominate the other surfers.

On a lighter note, the weather has been beautiful, and my tan is coming along nicely

--Possum Man

Step 2: Find the explicitly written main idea, write it out below, and move on to step 4.
(If the text does not contain an explicitly stated main idea go to Step 3.)

"Psychic Surfer abuses his superpowers to dominate other surfers."

Step 3: Invent a main idea if none exists.

Step 4: Draw a line through any irrelevant and redundant information. (Refer back to the main idea.)

Step 5: List general ideas to be superordinated.

Step 6: Write a summary consisting of an introductory sentence and any relevant details.

In "The Psychic Surfer: Super-Hero Abuse" P man

Summary 2

Step 1: Read text.

Mary Liu

Mr. Pidd

English 867

8 May 2010

Lou Liu Loses It: A Kook Island Vacation

Last week, my dad, Louis Liu, mom, Sue Liu, and I (Mary) left for our trip to the Kook Islands. High winds delayed our flight at SFO for four hours. At Kook International Airport, KookAir lost mom's luggage. When Big Lou complained about the missing bags, the Kook Islander working behind the counter called Lou a stinky old goat. This, I found out, is the worst insult you can give in the Kook Islands. She then took her lunch break and ate her brown-bagged mutton flaps.

Once we got to our crummy hotel, we went to the Kook Island Café for dinner. Lou got the lobster and broke out in a purple rash. Mom ate the vegetarian plate and got the stomach flu. I ate a poisonous puffer fish, and my hands went numb for the rest of the trip.

Mom loves to swim, so we decided to go to the polluted beach. Mom got stung by a sting ray, and when Big Lou went to help her, a reef shark bit his plump pinky. While Lou took Ma to the emergency room (which is just a rusty shed by the airstrip), I was attacked by the dogs that run wild all over the island. (Did you know that last year over 200 tourists were attack by Kook Island dogs? By the way, these dogs do not bark.) Anyway, that is the story of the Liu family trip. I can't wait for our next vacation!

Step 2: Find the explicitly written main idea, write it out below, and move on to step 4.
(If the text does not contain an explicitly stated main idea go to Step 3.)

Step 3: Invent a main idea if none exists.

In "Lou Liu Loses It: A Kook Island Vacation" Mary Liu

(describes/argues)

Pick the appropriate verb.

Step 4: Delete the irrelevant and redundant information.

Step 5: List general ideas to be superordinated.

Step 6: Write a summary consisting of an introductory sentence and any relevant details.

In "The Story of the Lius on Their Kook Island Vacation" Mary Liu

(describes/argues)

Summary 3

Step 1: Read the text.

Psychic Surfer Replies

So Possum Man says I am abusing my superhero powers? Do we really want to listen to that loser? He can play "possum." Owwww, I'm so scared! He can go into a comatose state that mimics death.

Do you know what else he can do? He's an expert at hiding during the daylight. How is that a super power? He should call himself "Coward Man." And what about the fact that he can move so slowly that you can't tell he's moving? That just makes it easier to zap him with a ray gun (death or freeze, I don't care because a frozen superhero is about as much use as a dead one).

His Electronic Possum Tail is probably the worst gadget I have ever seen. At last year's Supervillain Convention in Tora Bora, Disintegrator Man spent his entire presentation making fun of the tail. Then there is the fish phone, which is an iPhone disguised to look like a real fish. A fish phone? Are you kidding me? My grandmother, who has no superpowers, could come up with better gadgets than that!

His secret hideout is a tree fort made out of trash! That dive doesn't have electricity, and there's no plumbing. His lab, where he designs his gadgets, is full of cheaply made third-world tools. (My bullet-proof Kevlar surfboards were all made from US materials. USA all the way, baby!)

The guy is lame, and we really should not listen to him.

P.S. Not to go off topic, but I got the coolest superhero powers and everyone knows it.

P.S.P.S. See you in the lineup. And that next wave is mine, sucka!

--Psychic Surfer

Summary 4

Step 1: Read the text.

Pickle Jones

Professor Pidd

English 13

7 March 2010

Bigfoot Lives!

Many people believe that a mythical creature lives in the backwoods of the United States of America. That creature is called Bigfoot. Bigfoot is taller than people, stands upright just like people, and is very hairy. There are tales of Bigfoot from Native Americans. Unfortunately, people who do believe in Bigfoot do not have any real proof that Bigfoot exists.

No one has ever come across a skeleton of a Bigfoot in the forest even though other animal skeletons are found on a regular basis. Scientists say they have found no fossil evidence of Bigfoot. Research scientists sent in the forest to monitor other life forms have never come across a Bigfoot. However, not all scientists agree that Bigfoot does not exist--Jane Goodall, a famous primatologist, ethnologist, and anthropologist, believes in Bigfoot, even though she has never actually seen or looked for a Bigfoot.

Most supposed films or photographs of Bigfoot are of poor quality and often cloudy and grainy. Why can't anyone get a good picture? Most people who do believe they saw a Bigfoot creature probably really only saw a bear.

Another problem is that Bigfoots have been reported to stink. However tracking dogs have never been able to follow the scent of one of the hidden creatures.

There is no proof that these forest creatures exists.

Summary 5

Step 1: Read the text.

Dee Manose

Professor Pidd

English 1

9 January 2010

Rocks Are Hard

There are three major types of rock. Rocks are made from different minerals that are combined together. The three types of rock are igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary. These rock types are found all over the world, and each had a different path to creation.

Igneous rocks once came from below the crust of the earth and were molten lava. The word "igneous" comes from the Latin word for fire. Igneous rock is formed by magma (molten rock) being cooled and becoming solid. Examples of igneous rock are obsidian and granite.

Another type of rock is the metamorphic rock. These are rocks that were changed in some way. Metamorphic rocks are rocks that have changed into another kind of rock. These rocks were once igneous or sedimentary rocks. Either heat or pressure deep within the earth changed the rock by either melting the rock or pushing the rock together. Most times you will find these rocks underground. Examples of these types of rocks are slate and jade.

The final type of rock is sedimentary rock. These rocks are most often found by the ocean or rivers. Layer after layer of sediment piles on top of each other. Sediments are deposited from of air, ice, wind, gravity, or water flows. Sedimentary rocks are laid down in layers called beds. After millions of years it becomes so compressed it becomes a rock. Examples of sedimentary rock are sandstone and amber.

ANSWER KEY

Pg 5

Who? Shama Llama

What? kill the great white shark El Blanco

How? with the help of shark fisherman Jimmy Dent

Where? in the ocean

When? when he finds El Blanco

Why? revenge for biting his head

One-Sentence Summary: With the help of Jimmy Dent

Shama Llama has vowed to kill the great white shark El Blanco

when he finds him in the ocean because he wants
revenge for the shark biting his head.

Pg 6

Who? Professor Stewart Pidd

What? got his feeling's hurt

How? reading student evaluations

Where? internet evaluation website

When? recently

Why? trying help and being criticized for it is painful

One-Sentence Summary: Recently Professor Stewart Pidd got his feelings hurt while
reading student evaluations on an internet evaluation website because trying help and
being criticized for it is painful.

Pg 7

Who? People Against Technology

What? embraces technology

How? launching its website

Where? online

When? Today

Why? insure the group's survival

One-Sentence Summary: Today, People Against Technology will embrace technology
by launching its website online to insure the group's survival.

Pg 8

Who? Ditch Dent

What? would rather wrestle a shark than a squid

How? punch it in its sensitive nose

Where? in the ocean

When? When attack

Why? the squid is more dangerous

One-Sentence Summary: Ditch Dent would rather wrestle a shark in the ocean than a squid by punching it in its sensitive nose because the squid is more dangerous.

Pg 9

Who? China

What? warned the US to stop thwarting their efforts to steal technology

How? in a speech given by the labor secretary

Where? in Beijing

When? last week

Why? because the days of cheap goods will end

One-Sentence Summary: In Beijing last week China warned the US to stop thwarting their efforts to steal technology in a speech given by the labor secretary because the days of cheap goods will end.

Pg 11

Finding the Main Idea

1. d) Taryn the organizer should get rid of that mutt.

Pg 12

2. b) It is no wonder people say that Dr. Lulu relates well to animals.

3. c) Taryn thinks maybe she should break-up with him.

4. a) The security guard team take their jobs very seriously at The BeauGus Superstore.

5. d) He seems harmless.

6. a) Judge Beanbarf ought to lock up Mel.

Pg 14

1. Common thread: Baseball

Topic Sentence: Johnny played an excellent game of baseball.

2. Common thread: The lunch at the Ludville prison

Topic Sentence: The lunch at the Ludville prison was unhealthy.

3. Common thread: Escaping

Topic Sentence: Mel is good at escaping.

4. Common thread: excellent school performance

Topic Sentence: Lulu excelled in high school and college.

Pg 15

5. **Common thread:** car flaws
Topic Sentence: Taryn's car has many flaws

6. **Common thread:** Sugar's diet
Topic Sentence: Sugar is a finicky eater.

Review

1. main
2. hardest
3. explicitly
4. Find the main idea, Invent a main idea if none exists, Delete irrelevant text
Delete redundant text, Superordinate details

Pg 16

Deleting Irrelevant Material

1. d) ~~Paraphrasing is not the same as summarizing.~~

Pg 17

2. c) ~~She had an eagle tattoo on her right arm.~~
3. c) ~~Her parents are both lawyers.~~
4. **(ALL ANSWERS SUPPORT.)**
5. c) ~~He stops speaking midsentence by saying "and whatever. . . ."~~

Pg 18

1. c) ~~I hate being cold in the water.~~
Topic Sentence: You need to bring surfing supplies.

2. c) ~~Polly likes math.~~
Topic sentence: Polly wants pets.

3. b) ~~It was made of leather.~~
Topic sentence: The room was sparsely furnished.

Pg 19

4. c) ~~He owns five flat screen TVs, which he bought from the back of a truck.~~
Topic sentence: Mel is a lazy bum.

5. d.) ~~Did I mention that her office is lovely?~~
Topic sentence: Lulu is socially awkward with people.

Review

1. Compress
2. Relevant
3. support
4. eliminate
5. should

Pg 20

Payne Can't Summarize

As you go over each sentence, ask if it supports the idea that Payne needs to go to summer school.

Dear Ms. Kantright,

~~Good morning. How are you this morning? You may be wondering why I am writing you. This is the first time I have talked to you.~~

Your Son Payne needs to go to Summary Summer School because he cannot eliminate irrelevant information from his summaries.

In his last summary, he included information that did not support the summary's main point. He was summarizing information about a famous chef, and he focused on the author's love of wrist rockets as a boy, which was not really relevant.

~~I like wrist rockets. I had one when I was kid. It was made of fiberglass. Then I accidentally shot out my dad's windshield and that was the end of my wrist rocket, but I digress.~~

Sincerely, Payne's Teacher, Mr. Banning Badtaste

~~P.S. What do you feed your kid?~~

Pg 21

Deleting Redundant Text

1. a) ~~Last month, it was raining cats and dogs.~~

Pg 22

2. c) ~~It is no wonder that consumers are misled by the term.~~
3. b) ~~In fact in a recent survey, he ranked it as his number one favorite sport.~~
4. c) ~~Red, red, red—all her possessions need to be red!~~
5. a) ~~This is what she wants.~~
b) ~~She has wanted this since she can remember.~~
c) ~~It seems like fun, you know?~~
6. a) ~~He needed to bribe corrupt communist officials.~~

Pg 23

1. b) ~~He meets his students on Mondays and Fridays.~~

Topic sentence: Master Chu's life is peaceful.

2. b) ~~It was very dark.~~

Topic sentence: The jungle was spooky.

Pg 24

3. d) ~~When he finished sweeping he washed more dishes and clothes.~~

Topic sentence: Master Chu worked hard in the monastery in as a boy.

4. c) ~~Nothing but the finest food goes into Sugar's gut.~~

Topic sentence: Taryn pampers Sugar.

5. **Supporting Details:** b) ~~It is mountain of papers.~~

Topic sentence: Taryn's workstation is a mess.

Review

1. Unnecessary
2. F
3. Hardest
4. T

Nothing Inc.

~~Hello, my name is James Dent. Welcome to tonight's presentation. Before we start, I'd like to thank the sponsors "Nothing Inc." I would like to add that I'm really nervous. So please bear with me. My talk tonight is on becoming the owner of profitable franchises. Can you hear me on the microphone okay? I'm here because I would like to interest you in a business opportunity. We are selling NOTHING! That is right, you will be selling nothing. Let me repeat myself, you charge people for nothing! Think about it: Your overhead is low. You don't have to pay for labor costs. Your production and material costs are zero! Why give excellent service or a quality product, when you can give nothing? I know I said this already, but I'd like to thank the sponsor.~~

~~I am James Dent!~~

Goodnight!

Pg 26

1. The seagulls, finches, and pelicans begged.

Superordination: The birds begged.

2. Siddhartha bought a tent, a portable stove, and a sleeping bag.

Superordination: Siddhartha bought camping equipment.

3. The right, left, and center fielders struck out.

Superordination: The out fielders struck out.

4. Stewart surfed breaks in the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern, and Arctic.

Superordination: Stewart surfed breaks in the five oceans.

Pg 27

1. **Superordination:** The General danced.

2. **Superordination:** He swims.

3. **Superordination:** This morning, the expressive dance teacher went to work.

4. **Superordination:** The MMA competitors fought.

5. **Superordination:** As a boy Mel would not do his chores.

Review

1. Unnecessary
2. Compress
3. Nouns and verbs

Pg 28

1. **Superordination:** Johnny played an excellent game of baseball.

2. **Superordination:** Payne slept fitfully.

Pg 29

3. **Superordination:** Omar wrote an essay.

4. **Superordination:** Taryn made a shake.

1. **Superordination:** Guru Mymomi overcharges his students for yoga equipment.

Pg 30

2. **Superordination:** Mel stole the spaghetti.

3. **Superordination:** The guards apprehended Mel.

4. **Superordination:** Master Chu neutralized

the guards.

5. **Superordination:** The band played three songs.

Pg 31

Review

1. Finding the main idea
2. Inventing a main idea if none exists
3. Deleting irrelevant text
4. Deleting redundant text
5. Superordinating details

Summary 1

Step 1: Read text.

The Psychic Surfer: Super Hero Abuse

The Psychic Surfer abuses his superpowers to dominate the other surfers. ~~When he is out surfing, these powers give him an unfair advantage over mortals.~~

At the Pistachio Point Masters' Tournament, he would paddle to the spot where the set wave would break long before the wave was visible. At the Ludville Strand Invitation, he used his powers to communicate with dolphins, who then towed him into the best waves.

He ruined the waves at Ludville Reef with the wind. He caused the snow to fall at the beach break at Ludville Strand. At the point, he brought down hail from the sky.

Last week while the Psychic surfer was surfing, Eddie Glass almost drowned. Butcher Coe got hit in the head with his surfboard. Stewart Pidd got stung by a stingray. This hardly seems like a coincidence.

~~Let me repeat this: The Psychic Surfer abuses his superpowers to dominate the other surfers.~~

~~On a lighter note, the weather has been beautiful.~~

--Possum Man

Step 2:

"The Psychic Surfer abuses his superpowers to dominate other surfers."

Step 3: Invent a main idea if none exists.

Step 4: Draw a line through any irrelevant and redundant information. (Refer back to the main idea.) (SEE PREVIOUS PAGE.)

Step 5: List general ideas to be superordinated.

Out surfs everyone controls weather cause bodily harm

Step 6: Write summary consisting of an introductory sentence and any relevant details.

In "The Psychic Surfer: Super Hero Abuse" Posum man argues that
the Psychic Surfer misuses his super powers. His powers give him an
unfair advantage to out surf others. He also misuses his powers to
control the weather. He causes bodily harm to come to surfers.

Summary 2

Lou Liu Loses It: A Kook Island Vacation

Last week, my dad, Louis Liu, mom, Sue Liu, and I (Mary) left for our trip to the Kook islands. High winds delayed our flight at SFO for four hours. At Kook International Airport, KookAir lost mom's luggage. When Big Lou complained about the missing bags, the Kook Islander working behind the counter called Lou a stinky old goat. ~~This, I found out, is the worst insult you can give in the Kook Islands. She then took her lunch break and ate mutton flaps.~~

~~Once we got to our crummy hotel,~~ we went to the Kook island Café for dinner. Lou got the lobster and broke out in a purple rash. Mom ate the vegetarian plate and got the stomach flu. I ate a poisonous puffer fish and my hands went numb for the rest of the trip.

Mom loves to swim so we decided to go to the polluted beach. Ma got stung by a sting ray, and when Big Lou went to go help her, a reef shark bit his plump pinky. While Lou took Ma to the emergency room (~~which is just a rusty shed by the airstrip~~), I was attacked by the wild dogs that run free all over the island. ~~(Did you know that last year over 200 tourists were attack by Kook Island dogs? By the way, these dogs do not bark.) Anyway, that is the story of the Liu family trip. I can't wait for our next vacation!~~

--Mary Liu

Step 2:

Step 3: Invent a main idea if none exists.

In "The Story of the Lius on Their Kook Island Vacation" Mary Liu
describes a mishap filled vacation.

Step 4: Delete irrelevant and redundant information. **(SEE PREVIOUS PAGE.)**

Step 5: List general ideas to be superordinated.

Air travel

bad food

animal attacks

Step 6: Write summary consisting of an introductory sentence and any relevant details.

In "The Story of the Lius on Their Kook Island Vacation" Mary Liu

describes a mishap filled vacation. Many things went wrong on the

flight to the island. The food on the island made everyone sick.

Every

member of the Liu family was attacked by an animal.

Summary 3

Step 1: Read the text.

Psychic Surfer Replies

~~So Possum Man says I am abusing my superhero powers? Do we really want to listen to that loser? He can play "possum."~~

~~Owww, I'm so scared!~~ He can go into a comatose state that mimics death.

~~Do you know what else he can do? He's an expert at hiding during the daylight. How is that a super power? He should call himself "Coward Man."~~ And what about the fact that he can move so slowly that you can't tell he's moving? ~~That just makes it easier to zap with a ray (death or freeze, I don't care because a frozen superhero is about as much use as a dead one).~~

His Electronic Possum Tail is probably the worst gadget I have ever seen. ~~At last year's Supervillain Convention in Tora Bora, Disintegrator Man spent his entire presentation making fun of the tail.~~ Then there is the fish phone, which is an iPhone disguised to look like a real fish. ~~A fish phone? Are you kidding me? My grandmother, who has no superpowers, could come up with better gadgets than that!~~

His secret hideout is a tree fort made out of trash! That dive doesn't have electricity, and there's no plumbing. His lab, where he designs his gadgets, is full of cheaply made third-world tools. ~~(My bullet-proof Kevlar surfboards were all made from US materials. USA all the way, baby!)~~

The guy is lame, and we really should not listen to him.

P.S. ~~Not to go off topic, but I got the coolest superhero powers and everyone knows it.~~

P.S.P.S. ~~See you in the lineup. And that next wave is mine, suckah!~~

--Psychic Surfer

Step 2:

The guy is lame, and we really should not listen to him.

Step 3: Invent a main idea if none exists.

Step 4: Delete irrelevant and redundant information.

Step 5: List general ideas to be superordinated.

Bad super powers weak gadgets low quality superhero lair

Step 6: Write out summary containing the main idea and any relevant details.

In "the Psychic Surfer Replies" the Pyschic Surfer rejects the Possum Man's

argument based on the fact that Possum man is mediocre superhero. Possum

man's powers (his ability to play dead and blend in) are not formidable. His

gadgets (the possum tail and the fish phone) seem to lack creativity. Lastly his

lair is a low tech tree fort.

Summary 4

Step 1: Read the text.

Pickle Jones

Professor Pidd

English 13

7 March 2010

Bigfoot Lives!

Many people believe that a mythical creature lives in the backwoods of the United States of America. That creature is called Bigfoot. Bigfoot ~~is taller than people, stands upright just like people, and is very hairy. There are tales of Bigfoot from Native Americans.~~ Unfortunately, people who do believe in Bigfoot do not have any real proof that Bigfoot exists.

No one has ever come across a skeleton of a Bigfoot in the forest even though other animal skeletons are found on a regular basis. Scientists say they have found no fossil evidence of Bigfoot. Research scientists sent in the forest to monitor other life forms have never come across a Bigfoot. ~~However, not all scientists agree that Bigfoot does not exist--Jane Goodall, a famous primatologist, ethnologist, and anthropologist, believes in Bigfoot, even though she has never actually seen or looked for a Bigfoot.~~

Most supposed films or photographs of Bigfoot are of poor quality and often cloudy and grainy. ~~Why can't anyone get a good picture? Most people who do believe they saw a Bigfoot creature probably really only saw a bear.~~

Another problem is that Bigfoots have been reported to stink. However tracking dogs have never been able to follow the scent of one of the hidden creatures.

~~There is no proof that these forest creatures exists.~~

Pg 43
Step 2:

"Unfortunately, people who do believe in Bigfoot do not have any real proof that Bigfoot exists."

Step 3: Invent a main idea if none exists.

Step 4: Delete irrelevant and redundant information. (SEE PREVIOUS PAGE)

Step 5: List general ideas to be superordinated.

No skeletal remains no good photos no smell

Step 6: Write out summary containing the main idea and any relevant details.

In "Bigfoot Lives!" Pickle Jones explains despite the fact that people believe in bigfoot there is not evidence to back up this belief. Scientists have found no skeletal remains of the beast. All photos of bigfoot are blurry. Despite having a strong smell, dogs cannot track them

Rocks Are Hard

~~There are three~~ major types of rock. They are igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary. ~~These rock types are found all over the world,~~ and each have three very different paths to creation.

Igneous rocks once came from below the crust of the earth and were molten lava. ~~The word "igneous" comes from the Latin word for fire.~~ Igneous rock is formed by magma (molten rock) being cooled and becoming solid. ~~Examples of igneous rock are obsidian and granite.~~

Another type of rock is the metamorphic rock. ~~These are rocks that were changed in some way. Metamorphic rocks are rocks that have changed into another kind of rock.~~ These rocks were once igneous or sedimentary rocks. Either heat or pressure deep within the earth changed the rock by either melting the rock or pushing the rock together. ~~Most times you will find these rocks underground. Examples of these types of rocks are slate and jade.~~

The final type of rock is sedimentary rock. ~~These rocks are most often found by the ocean or rivers. Layer after layer of sediment piles on top of each other. Sediments are deposited from of air, ice, wind, gravity, or water flows.~~ Sedimentary rocks are laid down in layers called beds. After millions of years it becomes so compressed it becomes a rock. ~~Examples of sedimentary rock are sandstone and amber.~~

--Dee Mannose

Step 2:

“There are three major types of rock. They are igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary. These rock types are found all over the world, and each have three very different paths to creation.”

Step 3: Invent a main idea if none exists.

Step 4: Delete irrelevant and redundant information.

Step 5: List general ideas to be superordinated.

Fire/cooling transformation layering

Step 6: Write out summary containing the main idea and any relevant details.

In “Rocks Are Hard,” Dee Mannose describes the paths of creation of the three types of rocks. Igneous rock is molten rock that are formed by cooling. Metamorphic rock is igneous or sedimentary rock that has been transformed by either heat or pressure. Sedimentary rock is formed by the compressing of layers of sediment.

TEST BANK

SUMMARY TEST

Directions: Summarize the following text:

Step 1: Read the text.

A Snake Called Deception By Stewart Pidd

In the big city in the hot valley lived a happy, young couple named Lyar and Peace. In this big city, they lived in a small apartment. They had a pet bird named Honesty. It was a beautiful bird. Its feathers were many bright colors. With their colorful bird, Lyar and Peace were very content in the bustling city.

But contentment breeds complacency. Not happy with happiness, Lyar began to wander the dark alleyways of the town. One day Lyar found a black snake called Deception in a vacant lot behind their apartment. Deception, a poisonous snake, was very attractive. With enough venom, his bite could kill you in seconds. His smooth snakeskin was black and shone in the sun, and it was very a sunny day in the big city. Handling the reptile carefully, Lyar was hypnotized. He brought him home and kept it for a pet.

Somehow, Lyar got the idea in his head that Deception was a magical snake. The cold-blooded reptile could give Lyar supernatural powers. Using the powers of Deception, he could get people to do what he wanted. The powers of Deception also allowed him to do what he wanted without consequence. Having the poisonous Deception made him feel stronger. He truly had powers over others. When he couldn't get what he wanted, he always knew he could use Deception to get what he wanted.

One day he was playing with the snake when it bit his wife Peace's bird, Honesty. The colorful bird lost all its colors as its life-force succumbed to Deception's deadly poison. Within seconds the beautiful bird died. Peace loved that bird and would be upset that it was dead. In a panic, Lyar threw Honesty out the apartment window. But then he remembered, he had the power of Deception. He could use it on Peace, and everything would be fine.

When Peace came home and asked about Honesty, Lyar told her that Honesty had flown out the window. For some reason, Deception's power didn't work anymore. Peace knew that the snake had killed Honesty. In a rage, she picked up the snake to throw it out the window. Lyar had grown so close to Deception that he tried to stop her. In the tussle, Deception bit Peace killing her instantly.

It was hard to believe that because of Deception, Lyar would never see Peace again.

Summary Quiz 1: Finding the main idea

Directions: identify the main idea.

1.
 - a. The whippersnapper annoyed the old man who lived next door to her.
 - b. The whippersnapper always talked back rudely to the old man.
 - c. She rode her skateboard outside his window
 - d. She played her drums all night.

2.
 - a. Santa made a list and checked it twice.
 - b. Santa *isn't* coming to town.
 - c. You were not good for goodness sake.
 - d. You stayed up all night.

3.
 - a. Work is for losers.
 - b. I don't want to be a slave to a clock.
 - c. My parents need to support me.
 - d. I'm a princess.

4.
 - a. I couldn't even get chips and salsa and a glass of water to wash them down.
 - b. It took an hour to get our main course.
 - c. When I wanted a doggie bag for my food the waiter rolled his eyes and asked if I was the dog.
 - d. The service at El Macho's restaurant was really terrible.

5.
 - a. Your nervous system helps you move.
 - b. It will protect you from excess heat and cold.
 - c. It will keep you from falling over.
 - d. Your nervous system loves you.

6.
 - a. It takes years of practice to master martial arts.
 - b. Martial arts really are an art form.
 - c. You must master basic skills.
 - d. Then you must integrate these skills.

7.
 - a. Puppies are cute
 - b. They are fun to play with
 - c. I want one!
 - d. They are not very much trouble.

8.
 - a. My old dog is not so cute.
 - b. It's too needy.
 - c. It smells.
 - d. We got to get rid of that old mutt.

9.
 - a. Grandma never invites me over after school for cookies.
 - b. She told me I'm not her favorite grandchild.
 - c. I don't think Grandma likes me.
 - d. She says I'm bad to the bone.

10.
 - a. Learning makes me sick.
 - b. I get dizzy when I read.
 - c. Listening to lectures makes me nauseous.
 - d. Writing makes me break out in rashes.

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Summary Quiz 2: Finding Irrelevant Details

Directions: identify the irrelevant sentence.

1. Ms. Communication, magazine editor extraordinaire at *Cougar Life* expects a lot from her workers.
 - a. Her frightened assistant, Tommy, needs to know what she wants before she does.
 - b. She likes to eat raw steak at her desk.
 - c. She expects her staff to have the same strict work ethic as she.
2. Gary puts a lot of effort into staying in shape.
 - a. He lifts weights.
 - b. He takes special natural supplements to boost his energy for lifting and make his skin glow.
 - c. He wishes he was 20 years younger and had more hair.
3. Homemade apple pie is best when it is made with just a hint of sugar.
 - a. Vanilla ice cream on pie is only so-so.
 - b. A little sweet, a little tart makes an appealing pie.
 - c. Too much sugar in a pie makes it taste like it was made in a candy factory.
4. If Gary were 20 years younger he would not have to work out so much to look hot.
 - a. He feels that it is easier for young men to stay in shape.
 - b. He has a bad hip.
 - c. He likes to get manicures and pedicures, and an occasional facial.
5. During Little League baseball games kids who dad's coach always play infield.
 - a. Maybe I need to buy the coach a nice present so that my son can play in the infield?
 - b. To get more infield experience, one should have a parent that coach's Little League.
 - c. Coaching is a great way to get your kid a sure spot in the infield.
6. Raman noodle are not a healthy meal choice.
 - a. Packaged noodles often have too much sodium.
 - b. Noodles taste so good.
 - c. Noodles lack protein and fiber, and just make your insulin levels shoot up.
7. My Gal Sal sure has a bad attitude about rodeos.
 - a. Sal thinks that rodeos are cruel to horses and cattle.
 - b. She told me more than once that rodeo clowns are annoying and have loser jobs.
 - c. Sal loves the barbequed corn at the rodeo.
8. Professor Poppycock loves to pontificate about ancient Greece in history class.
 - a. Poppycock's favorite subject is Greece.
 - b. My new Grecian sandals sure look cute.
 - c. The Prof shares his excellent knowledge of Greek history with his students.
9. It is always difficult to find a decent job during tough economic times.
 - a. One must spent countless hours contacting people and applying for jobs.
 - b. Make sure you have a resume ready at all times; you never know who you might run into.
 - c. Xbox 360 is way better than going to work.
10. After paying my rent I don't have any money left for anything else.
 - a. I think I'll watch America's Funniest Videos.
 - b. I dug down to the bottom of my purse for loose change so that I could buy some popcorn for dinner.
 - c. I better take that tortuous part-time job so that I can fix my car.

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Summary Quiz 3: Eliminating Redundancies

Directions: pick the redundant sentence.

1.
 - a. Peacock Jones loves looking at himself in his new suit from the Ludville suit brokers.
 - b. The suit makes him look distinguished.
 - c. The suit makes him appear 20 pounds lighter.
 - d. He looks very slender.

2.
 - a. This year I would like to learn how to snowboard.
 - b. Most of the cool people at school snowboard.
 - c. I always loved board sports.
 - d. Snowboarding would be a good thing for me to try this year.

3.
 - a. Amy likes to cha cha cha on the weekends.
 - b. She has some shoes that let her slide across the floor.
 - c. Amy meets her friends on Saturday and Sunday nights for a little dancing fun.
 - d. Dancing lessons really up her game on the dance floor.

4.
 - a. Renaldo challenged me to a game of Monopoly.
 - b. I have been called the King of Monopoly by many monopoly masters.
 - c. Many Monopoly experts think I should be named Mr. Monopoly.
 - d. I have been studying Monopoly strategy since I was a young boy.

5.
 - a. What really fooled us was that he acted so normal.
 - b. He acted like he was totally sane.
 - c. Mr. Tucker gave everyone in Ludville a dog whistle.
 - d. He wants everyone to blow the whistle at the same time.

6.
 - a. Candice likes to complain about how little money she makes.
 - b. She got paid four dollars for her Etch-a-Sketch portraits.
 - c. Etch-a-Sketch artists are not in high demand.
 - d. Not too many people want an Etch-a-sketch portrait.

7.
 - a. As gross as Jaime is, he sure is attractive.
 - b. He wears cute clothes, he's so funny, and he's popular too.
 - c. Such a cutie-patotie--too bad he has many disgusting habits.
 - d. Jamie has the most awesome eyes.

8.
 - a. I'm so smart; I'm only weak in a couple of subjects.
 - b. I'm not so good at math.
 - c. I just can't add.
 - d. I've got to admit that sometimes science give me some trouble too.

9.
 - a. I am looking for a job in the financial sector where I can get a big bonus.
 - b. A job on Wall Street will look good on my resume.
 - c. A job in banking is where I want to work since I'm looking for extra money at the end of the year from my company.
 - d. I've gone to school to help people invest their money wisely.

10.
 - a. Hank has a cruddy Chinese VW Santana.
 - b. Hank's car's doesn't have air conditioning.
 - c. The body is rusted.
 - d. The entire thing is oxidized.

Summary Quiz 3: Eliminating Redundancies

Directions: pick the redundant sentence. (The redundancy is the second mention of the same idea.)

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b. Hank's car's doesn't have air conditioning.
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EXAM 2: The Summary

1. _____ is a condensed rewording of information.
a. literal paraphrase b. summary c. main idea d. plagiarism
2. Is it true that keeping in irrelevant material in a summary makes it easy to find the main idea of a topic?
a. YES b. NO
3. The _____ of a summarized work is an overview of the topic written in one or two sentences.
a. main idea b. literal paraphrase c. topic sentence d. secret
4. Asking the questions who, what, where, when, why, and how is a silly waste of time when trying to summarize writings.
a. YES b. NO
5. Which is not one of the Summary Writing Secrets from the 70's?
a. deleting irrelevant text b. superordinating details
c. plagiarizing text d. finding the main idea

Finding the Main Idea

Directions: identify the main idea.

6. a. Taryn has friends at work.
b. She knows everyone on the baseball team.
c. She made friends on her vacation in Chile.
d. She is very sociable.
7. a. Celeste surf fishes in Dana Point.
b. She is a well-rounded fisherwoman.
c. She fly casts in the Sierras.
d. She is so deadly with a spear gun that all the fish get scared when she swims by.
8. a. The congressman hid his bribe money in his freezer.
b. He hid the bribe money in the wall.
c. How many places can that guy think of hiding all his bribe money?
d. He even hid some money in his underwear.
9. a. Pro Surfer Ditch Dent got busted in a drug deal in Hawai'i.
b. Then he stole his sponsor's Maserati and drove it off the Oceanside pier.
c. No one wants to talk to him now because he such a loser.
d. Did I mention that he even got thrown off the pro tour?
10. a. People lose their toes.
b. It's hard to breathe.
c. Many people die.
d. Climbing Mt Everest *sucks!*
11. a. I got a skate board
b. I got a pony.
c. I got a dog.
d. I got a lot of stuff.

Deleting Irrelevant Material

Directions: identify the irrelevant sentence.

12.
 - a. Gary has trouble keeping a band together.
 - b. His drummer quit when Gary told him his \$40 Casio drum machine could play better than he played.
 - c. His bass player got married, and his new wife said he could play no more.
 - d. Gary just bought a Duesenberg Starplayer guitar with the money he made as an underwear male model.

13.
 - a. Jonny's dad loves his bull dog more than he loves him.
 - b. Johnny fed the seagulls at the beach.
 - c. He looked through the telescope on the pier.
 - d. He raced his Mustang down PCH.

14.
 - a. We raced a lot when we were young.
 - b. We made origami.
 - c. Some days we ran foot races.
 - d. All of us would get together at the polluted river and have swimming races.

15.
 - a. I don't care about seeing any of the 7 wonders of the world.
 - b. I don't want to see the pyramids.
 - c. The thought of climbing up to Machu Pichu horrifies me.
 - d. I, however, would like another Mountain Dew.

16.
 - a. Temperament influences how we experience life.
 - b. Age also affects experience.
 - c. Then there is environment.
 - d. Therefore, it's good to have a college education.

Deleting Redundant Text

Directions: identify the redundant sentence.

17.
 - a. Jonny's dad loves his bull dog more than he loves him.
 - b. That stupid dog gets all his love and Johnny gets none.
 - c. This Christmas, he spent 20 thousand dollars for the dog's cancer treatment.
 - d. He bought Johnny a bag of Costco socks.

18.
 - a. I want to tell you something.
 - b. Can I tell you something?
 - c. Summarizing is hard.
 - d. Paraphrasing is not so easy either.

19.
 - a. My name is Billy
 - b. I like eating doughnuts
 - c. Bread products with butter are tasty.
 - d. Please call me Billy.

20.
 - a. I'm left handed.
 - b. I cannot write with my right hand.
 - c. Left handers are very creative.
 - d. They also die younger than righties.

Superordinating Ideas

Directions: identify the word that superordinates the other words.

21. a. backstrokes
b. swims
c. dog paddles
d. breast stroke

22. a. punches
b. fights
c. bites
d. kicks

23. a. flies
b. glides
c. dives
d. banks

24. a. jogs
b. trots
c. sprints
d. runs

25. a. visualizes
b. thinks
c. questions
d. calculates

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