

# WRITING A SUMMARY



Work towards making your writing appear mature and well-educated. You actually *do* want your words and ideas to be taken seriously. It's worth some extra effort.

## The Basics for Success

Many students seem confused about what a summary ought to look like for this class. So let me help you out.

Let's make a list of things a summary should or shouldn't be for this class (*by the way, don't spell it as summery, that means it's like summer - not right at all*).

1) A summary from a mature writer should never start with anything like "in this section I/we learned..." or "This text was about..." because this is an extremely immature way to approach summary writing. **Take on the role of teacher to your readers.** A good summary truly teaches the information in the text, and proves that you basically understand what you learned.

2) It should contain, and clearly explain or describe, facts and ideas you found from

**the text.** These are your Category items, especially Events. If you write about the culture and are able to underline several things that are from your categories, you are probably on the right track. **However**, you should be writing about the *cultures* so **don't** give me *geography* facts or borrow the information at the top of the section. Tell your reader about the *people* whose daily life is outlined in the passage;

- the things they made or did
- who held/earned an important role
- technology they invented or used often
- unique traits that set them apart from - or connected them to - other groups
- impacts they made on the global timeline
- things they wrote and what they believed in

**That** is what the culture is about.

3) **Don't give me a synopsis.** A *synopsis* is what you find on the cover of a book to get you to read it, or that little bit of text at the top of each chapter section. It has no real content and doesn't actually tell you anything about the characters or culture. It does *not* meet our needs. If you use this format, you will lose points.

4) **Yes, it needs to be an actual paragraph** or two, indented properly. You should be able to underline several items from the categories because they are in the paragraph. If it helps you to track your progress, then underline, by all means. I will when I grade your journal. Your categories are about the culture, the paragraph is about the culture, so they should have common elements between them.