

SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT

ENGL 102.1

WRITING AND RESEARCH

For Summary #1, you need to review the following essays from the WARAC and choose the one that you feel you can summarize most effectively:

“Opinions and Social Pressure” by Solomon E. Asch, page 206.

“Debunking Myths about Marriages and Families” by Schwartz and Scott, page 156

“America’s Sleep-Deprived Teens Nodding Off at School, Behind the Wheel” by The National Sleep Foundation, page 356

Be sure that you not only read the essay, but also are able to understand it well enough that you can tell the reader what the main ideas are in your own words. Remember that a summary is not a replacement for the original source – it’s a description of its contents.

Review the section of the textbook about summaries, but also be sure to read the **Summary Information Sheet**, as the academic abstract style of summary that we are looking for here is slightly different than what the textbook emphasizes. Look at the **examples** given on the **Summary Information Sheet** for your model of how to write your summary.

Your academic abstract summary will be evaluated for the following elements:

- A clear initial sentence identifying the source, author and main thesis
- Objective description
- Only the main ideas/themes/arguments of the source
- No direct quotes (short quoted phrases acceptable, but not preferable)
- Few to no specific details/statistics/names/places/etc. from the original source
- Proper grammar and sentence structure
- Length of one paragraph, no more than one typed page

You may begin working on Summary #2 as soon as you are done with the first one, but do not submit it for evaluation until you have received the first assignment back from the instructor.

For Summary #2, you should select and summarize one of the sources that you have found for your research paper. **Select carefully.** A factsheet or online brochure produced by an organization is almost impossible to summarize properly, as they are already basically summarized information. Make sure that you understand the information completely – to the point that you can simply tell someone, in your own voice, exactly what the original source contained.