

How to write Summary of an Article

Purpose of a summary is to restate author's main idea in our own words in such a way that this crux may become even clearer than original article. For this purpose, you may require focusing on main points discussed in the article and eliminate duplications, illustrations and supporting materials.

Although there is no rule of thumb for writing the summary of an article but definitely there are some common points which must be a part of good summary. Let us first discuss about some pre-requisites of summary writing.

Pre-Requisites of summary writing:

1. Read the title, abstract/first paragraph and conclusion of an article in order to get a preview of the article.
2. Now Start reading the article from the beginning and try to identify/grasp the main ideas discussed in the article. For quantitative articles, you may have to focus on:
 - Research question and reason of study. You may find it in introduction.
 - What is the hypothesis?
 - How the hypothesis is tested? (Methodology section will help you in finding the answer of this question)
 - Findings. (It includes tables and figures and their interpretations)
 - Conclusion. (It provides the crux of results, their implications and future directions)
3. Read the article again. This time highlights the main points that you may identify. It is better to mark not more than 20% of the article.

Now you are ready to write a summary. Following are the steps which must be incorporated in order to end up with a good summary of an article:

Introduction:

You need to start with the overview of an article that includes author's name and title of the article along with a thesis statement which explains the core of the article in 2-3 sentences. It's simply presents main theme of the article.

Main Body:

Length of an article summary depends on the size of article or the instructions provided by your teacher. You may give headings to your paragraphs (depends upon the nature of the article). It is better that each paragraph provide an information about a separate idea. You need to write the summary in your own words and avoid copying of expressions from the original source.

Conclusion:

It is a crucial part of the summary writing that required catering for many aspects. These aspects are:

- You need to summarize the article through findings, main ideas and underlying meanings of the article.
- Evaluate the article, whether it provides a clear picture of the phenomenon that has been discussed. Furthermore, you may identify a missing link or loop hole or any important information absent in the original article.
- You may also require to finally explain in brief that what you have learned from this article? How this article helps you in your studies? And how this article relates to your course content?

Some tips for writing Summary:

1. You need to make the summary brief and catching so that people may find a new aspect of article in each sentence.
2. Do not write every minor aspect of the article rather use only that portion which has a significant relation with the research question been asked, findings of the article and interconnection with the other major concepts been discussed.
3. You need to “work backwards”. It means, you preferable start reading from the conclusion. It may provide you a clear idea of what the author try to achieve and at what extent he/she is able to answer the research questions.

Hopefully, above mentioned guidelines helps you in writing article summary in a well-structured way.