

Civil Rights: Summary Non-Fiction Article

Writing a summary?

- Summary writing is the process of reading a text, identifying the **main ideas**, and then describing those ideas in your **own** words. A summary should be brief and include only **important ideas or information** from the text. Summaries should **not** include examples or repetitions, and they should **not** include your opinion. Summarizing helps you understand and remember information you have read.
- Though the goal in summary writing is to be concise and eliminate unnecessary supporting details, it is also important not to misrepresent a piece of writing by leaving out important sections of an author's text.

Some basic guidelines to follow when summarizing nonfiction:

- use your own words.
- your topic Sentence (1st sentence) should include:
 - **title** of the article
 - **who** the article is about
 - **what** the basic situation is
- cover ALL the **important key points** or ideas—names, places, dates, powerful words, and interesting facts.
- leave out unnecessary details and personal opinions.
- summarize in a logical order
- use at least ONE “quoted” **in-text citation** from the article
- make sure you have a final statement, a **wrap-up**.