Summarizing a Scholarly Article
Summer 2019

Due: June 21, 2019

Length: 2-3 paragraphs per article

The article summary assignment is intended to help you ground your research in your field, and at a more practical level, scaffold the literature review section of your research paper. The summary of articles in your field will enable you to:

- Recall the major aspects of each study
- Synthesize the major arguments of a group of studies in your field
- Analyze and evaluate the arguments of these studies
- Show how your research is built on these studies
- Identify the unique contribution of each of these studies to your research
- Establish the gap in the field that your study aims to address

Summarizing a specific quantitative or qualitative article usually consists of five steps.

Step 1: Scan the article and make notes on:

- **Introduction:** What is the phenomenon/problem that is being studied?
- **Research Question/Hypothesis:** What is the question the author is trying to address or what is the author's hypothesis? (What is the argument that the author is making?)
- **Methodology:** How was the question addressed or how was the hypothesis tested? What data or evidence does the author use? How was the data collected and analyzed? (participants, variables, procedure)
- **Results/Findings:** What did the author find?
- **Discussion & Implications:** What do the results/findings mean? How does the author interpret the results/findings?
- **References:** What sources has the author used? Are the sources current?
- **Publication details:** Author, title of the article, name of the journal, date of publication.

Step 2: Evaluate the article critically

- **Critical Evaluation:** Did the argument make sense? Does the data support the argument? Were the methods used to collect and analyze data appropriate? Were the results analyzed objectively/accurately/systematically? What are the drawbacks of the study?

Step 3: Establish the relevance of the article

- **Relevance:** How is the article relevant and important to your research?

Step 4: Write the first draft of the summary

- **Drafting:** Does the first draft of the summary provide a clear outline of the major aspects of the article covered in Step 1? Does it mention the positives and negatives of the article? Does it state clearly why the article is important to your research?

Step 5: Group the article under a category

- **Grouping:** Where does this article fit in with my research? What other articles can I group this with? Do I know how to synthesize this article with other articles in the field?
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<thead>
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<th>1) SOURCE (Format of your field)</th>
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<tr>
<td>2) PURPOSE or THESIS STATEMENT (i.e., what did they want to investigate and why did they want to?)</td>
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<td>3) RESEARCH QUESTION(s) and/or HYPOTHESIS (i.e., what did they want to know and/or what did they think would happen?)</td>
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<td>4) METHOD (i.e., who were the participants/subjects, what instruments and procedure did they use, how were they planning to analyze the data)</td>
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<td>5) RESULTS/FINDINGS (i.e., what did they find?)</td>
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<td>6) CONCLUSION AND FUTURE RESEARCH (i.e., what do their findings mean; what contributions did they make to the field?)</td>
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<td>7) CRITIQUE, LIMITATIONS, AND UNANSWERED QUESTIONS (i.e., how could this study have been better; how does your study fill the gap in their study?)</td>
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