

SUMMARY

Designed to give main ideas – the big picture
NOT the details

Not meant to replace the original –
DESCRIBES the contents of the original

Academics/businesses summarize regularly

SUMMARY

Think of it as a “coming attractions” trailer for
a movie or the description on the back of
the book

Written in the reader’s voice from the reader’s
perspective –
NOT a collection of quotes

Each reader may phrase summary differently

SUMMARY

A Sentence summary states the main thesis
only and identifies the source in one sentence

Thesis in YOUR phrasing, not a quote

Most summary readers will want more than just
the sentence summary, however

SUMMARY

Summaries almost always include the main
supporting ideas for the thesis

Textbook recommends writing a sentence for
each main ¶ or section

But be sure to rewrite and combine –
you do **NOT** have to follow original source’s
organization

SUMMARY

Keep the ideas general – describe the contents,
don’t repeat them

No specific names, dates, details

“The author identifies the most common ways
that small businesses fail.”

-- **NOT** listing each of the ways

SUMMARY

Since phrasing is in your voice, by the end, the
summary will sound like YOUR argument(s)

Be sure to identify the source or author again
at least once near the end of the summary.

FORMAT OF ABSTRACT SUMMARY

ONLY one paragraph

No more than one typed page

First sentence clearly identifies:

- author
- title
- overall thesis of entire source

FORMAT OF ABSTRACT SUMMARY

After opening thesis:

Identify the main supporting arguments

No specific details – avoid quotations

OBJECTIVE –

it's a description, not an opinion

How to Summarize

- Read original source entirely
- re-read until you have a feel for overall idea
- identify the primary thesis/idea of entire source
- write sentence summary - your words
- identify the major points supporting thesis
- write supporting sentences - your words
- make sure of accuracy - complete argument

First Sentence of Summary

“The Future of Love: Kiss Romance Goodbye, It’s Time for the Real Thing” by Barbara Graham discusses the relationship between love and marriage.

The changing view of marriage and its connection to romantic love is the focus of “The Future of Love: Kiss Romance Goodbye, It’s Time for the Real Thing” by Barbara Graham.

First Sentence of Summary

Barbara Graham sees society’s changing view of marriage as forcing society to realize that marriage and romantic love are not necessarily connected in her essay “The Future of Love: Kiss Romance Goodbye, It’s Time for the Real Thing.”

People have a need to be together as a couple, but not necessarily as a married couple, according to “The Future of Love: Kiss Romance Goodbye, It’s Time for the Real Thing” by Barbara Graham.

Complete summary #1 of Graham’s essay

“The Future of Love: Kiss Romance Goodbye, It’s Time for the Real Thing” by Barbara Graham discusses the relationship between love and marriage. She traces the historical and cultural definitions of marriage to show that marriage being based on love is a recent idea. She then shows how the recent scientific evidence shows that biologically, love is fleeting, and thus not enough to base a long-term relationship on. Graham also indicates that counselors and authors have taken the romance out of romance and tried to make it scientific. She ends the essay by claiming that marriage-style relationships are changing, whether we like it or not.

Complete summary #2 of Graham's essay

The changing view of marriage and its connection to romantic love is the focus of "The Future of Love: Kiss Romance Goodbye, It's Time for the Real Thing" by Barbara Graham. Graham argues that our growing divorce and re-marriage rates indicate that our society is looking for something in marriages that it isn't finding. Her argument states that today's society tries to base marriages on love, when history shows us that marriages are designed for social and economic reasons, not romantic reasons. According to Graham, we keep studying the biology and sociology of love in marriage, ignoring the fact that a successful love relationship and a successful marriage are two different things.

Complete summary #3 of Graham's essay

Barbara Graham sees society's changing view of marriage as forcing society to realize that marriage and romantic love are not necessarily connected in her essay "The Future of Love: Kiss Romance Goodbye, It's Time for the Real Thing." First, Graham gives historical evidence that marriage had to do with economic and social needs of the culture, not love. Then, she explains how science shows that human biochemistry causes us to have short bursts of romantic longing primarily as a way of starting relationships, not prolonging them. The essay ends with a call to begin trying to understand the "new" form of non-marriage relationships that our culture is creating.

Complete summary #4 of Graham's essay

People have a need to be together as a couple, but not necessarily as a married couple, according to "The Future of Love: Kiss Romance Goodbye, It's Time for the Real Thing" by Barbara Graham. She discusses the fact that marriage has traditionally been for survival, not for romantic love as a way of supporting her claims. Graham cites scientific literature that indicates that romantic love is biologically short-term, not long-term. The essay ends by indicating that marriage as a social institution is dying, and "something radically different is needed."

Proper Summary Will Have

- 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