

Writing 1E: Assignment #1

Article Summary

Description of the Assignment

The ability to summarize information ranks among the most valuable of writing skills, most especially in this age of informational overload. As an engineer, you will frequently be called upon to assimilate large amounts of information and help make decisions. Others may rely upon you to provide rapid and accurate analysis so that effective administrative decisions can be made. As a scholar, you will be increasingly tasked to sort through larger and larger amounts of information while rapidly extracting the essential points. For this assignment—your first paper in Writing 1E—you will sharpen your summarizing skills.

Task

Select one of the long articles from our first three weeks' reading assignments, located in our course reader (not *Starting Lines*).

Write a 3–4 page summary of one of these articles. In your summary, include the author's thesis and premise(s), their main argument, support and evidence, and conclusion(s).

Conclude your summary with a brief (1–3 paragraph) analysis of the author's argument. Do you agree or disagree with the author's conclusion(s)? Draw from outside examples and personal experience to support your analysis. "Why do you agree or disagree? Give your own support and examples.

Format

Printed on light-colored paper (e.g., white) with black ink or toner (contrast sufficient to render paper easily readable). Use easily readable, standard, 12-point fonts (avoid cursive fonts, old English, etc.). Italics may be used for emphasis, literary titles, etc. Bolding, underlining, and hyphenation are okay. All papers double-spaced. Margins should be set at one inch (1") all around. Number all pages. Include a separate title page at the beginning of your paper with: 1) your name; 2) title of paper; 3) course title and section (e.g., "Writing 1E")

Referencing

For this exercise, reference all quotations and paraphrases from the reader using the APA (American Psychological Association) style of citation. This is thoroughly described in the back of Hacker's *A Writer's Reference*. If you cite any outside sources, also use the APA style.

Due Date

See course website schedule.