

ARTICLE - CRITIQUES

I. SUMMARY WRITING

Using research by Brown Day, (1984), there are five rules for writing a summary.

They are:

1. Eliminate the trivia, i.e. details
2. Eliminate the redundancies, i.e. repetitions, summaries
3. Use generic terms for specific terms, i.e. flowers for roses, daisies, carnations and tulips
4. Locate and use the author's main ideas
5. If there are no main ideas, create your own based on the text

To write the summary, read the article several times. The questions to keep in mind while reading are:

- ❖ What does the author want me to know about this topic?
- ❖ What information does she/he give me about this topic?

Without consulting the article, write down the information you remember from reading. Next, using the article, look for important ideas that you have forgotten. Write them down. Using the list of ideas you've written, evaluate each one according to the rules listed above. Ideas that are subsumed under others are probably details that should be eliminated. The paragraph that can be constructed from the list will not necessarily be a smooth flowing, cohesive one, like you are accustomed to writing. A tip for articles that explain a method or technique: tell what the method is; explain briefly how to do it; and, tell what advantage it has.

II. CRITIQUE WRITING

The critique is not a reaction to the article or the material in it. It is not an explanation of the material, nor an amplification of it. Nor is the critique an editorial, a defense of the material from your standpoint. The critique is your evaluation of the article and how it is presented to you.

The questions to keep in mind while writing it are:

- ❖ If I were an editor receiving this article for publish in my professional journal, would I print it?
- ❖ Does it have a logical format? Is it written well?
- ❖ Does it have- a research base? Is the research base timely (5 years or less)?
- ❖ Is the article timely?
- ❖ Is the material practical and feasible? If not, what is the problem?
- ❖ What are the strengths of the article?
- ❖ What are its weaknesses? Will the weaknesses make the article, unworthy of publish?
- ❖ What text aids are there for the reader of the article? What is missing?

Answering these questions will help you construct the critique.

FORMAT FOR THE ARTICLE CRITIQUES

Margins: 1" top, bottom and both sides (right Justification is not necessary)

Typed, double spaced

1" down begin the citation in APA style:

Bean, T. W., Inabinette, N. B., & Ryan, R. (1983). The effect of a categorization strategy on secondary students' retention of literary vocabulary. Reading Psychology, 4, 247-252.

Length: summary- one paragraph no longer than half the page; critique- one paragraph to follow the summary (double space between), no longer than half a page (8 1/2" by 11"). 2 total paragraphs.

No heading except for the citation.

- ❖ Do not use personal pronouns (I, we, me, my, our, mine, you, your).
- ❖ You may use they, their, her, or his if and only if you are referring to the author(s).