

SUMMARIES

- are short forms of longer passages
- are about half the length of the original
- contain only what's important

A summary does NOT contain your ideas.
It presents the written material IN BRIEF.

SUMMARIZING SENTENCES:

Find the parts. Decide what is important.

Andree has a message that is echoed by the professionals I have spoken to in the field: there are not enough treatment centres out there for young people, there is not enough money or energy being poured into the issue of drug use on the street.

Summary:

Cut Modifiers

(Parts that tell about other parts)

I hope that this web site will be a place for female pilots who don't have a clue how to begin; beginners with an odd question or comment; and experienced flyers who can dispense advice.

Summary:

Of the two parts in this sentence, which one is main and which one modifies?

After promising aid to Pakistan if they would help the U.S. campaign against terrorism, President Bush continued Sunday to lay plans for a military reprisal.

Summary:

Which is the main part here?

Meanwhile, as Afghanistan’s ruling Taliban dug in for an expected U.S. assault, a senior Pakistani official said his country would seek to moderate the U.S. response to “ensure there are no civilian casualties.”

Summary:

Cut Repeated Material

There are some shocking things I could tell you, about her being a street kid at 13, about her drug addiction, about some of the horrible things that have happened to her.

Summary:

Substitute short descriptors for long ones.

Letters to a Street Child is a story about a young girl from a safe suburban home who leaves, becomes addicted to glue, and finally is sent off to a treatment centre by her parents.

Summary:

What one word could you use in place of the bold material?

The film is a heartfelt essay by a person with the **strength** to re-examine a part of her life that most people would want to forget.

Summary:

Summarizing Paragraphs

- Find the main material
- Is it in the **first** sentence?
- Is it in the **last** sentence?
- Is it a **middle** sentence?

Where is the main idea sentence here?
What's the most important other material?

Especially during adolescence, calcium is used to build bones. Bone density is determined in adolescence and young adulthood; so it is important to include three or more good sources of calcium in your diet every day. Cow's milk and dairy products do contain calcium. However, there are other good sources of calcium such as tofu processed with calcium sulfate, green leafy vegetables including collard greens, mustard greens, and kale, and calcium-fortified soy milk and orange juice.

Summary:

Where is the main idea sentence?

Underline only the most important stuff in the rest of the paragraph.

Teens who are seriously thinking and perhaps planning to commit suicide are often feeling depressed. An important element to their depression is the feeling of hopelessness. While it is common for teens to experience temporary periods of sadness or mild depression depending on their life situation, prolonged depression (lasting several weeks or months) with elements of hopelessness is an important predictor of suicide. One of the best ways that you can intervene if someone is feeling hopeless about their life, or about the problems they are experiencing in their life, is to help them reduce or decrease their feelings of hopelessness.

Summary:

**Sometimes there is no main idea sentence.
The writer may have a question.
You need to summarize the answer.**

What's behind bullying behavior? First of all, there is this social structure that rewards bullying. You can fit in, be cool, if you bully. Second, these kids don't feel that great about themselves, and bullying protects them from that feeling. A third factor is that we don't give kids skills to tolerate differences. So when they see people who are different, they lash out and make fun of them.

Summary:

For longer passages, you need to do some rough work leading up to your summary. Read the following two paragraphs about suicide.

Help can begin by speaking to a Guidance Counselor or a Staff Psychologist at your school. You may choose to accompany your friend to the appointment. Encourage them to be open and honest about how they are really feeling. I also think that there needs to be a level of open communication with the parents of the teen. While all parents may not be able to provide the kind of support and love that their teen needs, many can. It is important that parents know how their child is feeling. It also becomes far easier for a teen contemplating suicide to get help, if those who can help know exactly what is going on.

Finally, if you discover that a friend or a loved one is actively suicidal, and is in need of immediate emergency intervention, bring them to the emergency room of a local hospital. If they refuse, and you feel they are in danger of harming themselves, you can call the police and ask for help. They can bring the suicidal person to the hospital, or in some cases, to an emergency mental health facility where the person is assessed and placed under care. If the person continues to threaten suicide, he or she may be committed involuntarily for a three-day evaluation in most provinces. Doing this will often anger the person who feels suicidal. However, by bringing attention to the individual and their situation, there is a better chance that they can receive help.

