

Writing rubric

Your assignments will be graded on the quality of your writing and the insight of your observations. A summary should be directed toward imagined readers who have not done the reading being summarized. The purpose of a summary is to give these persons a clear overview of the reading's main points. The criteria for a summary are:

1. Accuracy of content;
2. Comprehensiveness and balance;
3. Clarity, readability, and grammatical correctness.

The specific components of your grade will be computed according to the following rubric:

- [5 points]** A 5 summary meets all the criteria. The writer understands the reading thoroughly. The main points in the reading appear in the summary with all main points proportionately developed (that is, the writer does not spend excessive time on one main point while neglecting other main points). The summary should be as comprehensive as possible and should read smoothly, with appropriate transitions between ideas. Sentences should be clear, without vagueness or ambiguity and without grammatical or mechanical errors.
- [4 points]** A 4 summary should still be very good, but it can be weaker than a 5 summary in one area. It may have excellent accuracy and balance but show occasional problems in sentence structure or correctness. Or it may be clearly written but be somewhat unbalanced or less comprehensive than a 5 summary or show a minor misunderstanding of the reading.
- [3 points]** A score of 3 means good but not excellent. Typically, a 3 summary will reveal a generally accurate understanding of the reading, but it will be notably weaker in the quality of writing. Or it may be well written but cover only part of the reading.
- [2 points]** A 2 summary must have strength in at least one area of competence, and should still be good enough to convince the grader that the writer has understood the reading fairly well. However, a 2 summary typically is not written well enough to convey an understanding of the reading to someone who has not already read it. Typically, the sentence structure of a 2 summary is not sophisticated enough to convey the sense of hierarchy and subordination found in the reading.
- [1 point]** A 1 summary is weak in all areas of competence, either because it is so poorly written that the reader cannot understand the content, or because the content is inaccurate or seriously disorganized. However, a 1 essay convinces the grader that the writer has done the reading and is struggling to understand it.
- [0 points]** A 0 summary fails to meet any of the areas of competence.