

Summaries...

...faithfully represent the main ideas, point of view and conclusions of *the author*



Condensed & objective

- Tell the main idea & major supporting points
- Leave out examples or minor details
- Represent the point of view, emphasis, and conclusions of the *author*
- Be objective: omit your opinion

Why summarize?

- In a text—as a study guide
- In behavioral sciences—for literature review
- In citing—for any article used as a source
- In literature—for comprehension, analysis, book review, critique

Paraphrasing

- *Not* just word substitution
- Read original & visualize.
- Put it aside.
- Don't look! and retell.
- Recheck main ideas.
- Revise.
- Repeat as needed.

Try it!

181 words

What kids have to show they can do to be labeled proficient in math is typically harder in most states than what they have to do to in reading, according to a study released Thursday by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, a Washington-based education think tank.

The findings come a little more than a week after the federal government reported students have been making much more progress in math than in reading in recent years.

Michael Petrilli, the think tank's vice president for policy, said it makes sense that students' math skills are improving if there are high expectations of them in that subject.

"If the bar is higher, you've got to work a lot harder," he said.

The Fordham study also found many states are making it easy to score well on the tests given in elementary school but harder to pass the middle-school tests.

That could be "giving parents, educators, and the public the false impression that younger students are on track for future success — and perhaps setting them up for unhappy surprises in the future," the report states.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21122473/>

One way to summarize it...

Nationally, students have improved more in math than in reading, in part because higher expectations in math make them work harder, according to a new think-tank study. On the other hand, it reports lower expectations give a false sense of competence, setting students and parents up for disappointment in later grades.

From 181 words to 57 words—roughly 1/3

“Boiling down” technique

- Fewer, but meaning-packed, words
- No loss of meaning

“The biota exhibited a one hundred percent mortality response.”

All the fish died.

Practice

October 5, 12:39 AM

[TIME Reports on the Political Prosecutions in Alabama](#)

“I’ve never seen anything quite like this,” remarked a nationally known print journalist in a conversation three weeks ago. “Everything I’ve been told by the convicted defendants checks out as the gospel truth. And everything I’m told by federal prosecutors who pushed the case turns out either to be an outrageous lie or at least a very serious distortion. And the local journalists who wrote the most about the case all behave like they’re accessories after the fact in a criminal investigation.”

<http://www.harpers.org/>

(82 words)

One “boiled down” version

A prominent journalist asserts that the defendants’ claims in the Alabama case have turned out to be true, while prosecutors’ claims have now proven false.

82 to 25 words—a little less than 1/3

Add citation material...

According to [author's name], writing for Harpers.com ("Times Reports on the Political Prosecutions in Alabama"), a prominent journalist is now asserting that the defendants' claims in the Alabama case have turned out to be true, whereas prosecutors' claims have now proven false.

Writing it...

- Identify author, title, source
- Paraphrase & condense
- Use present tense verbs
- Use signal phrases (According to the study...)
- Use transitions (On the other hands, it reports...)
- “Translate” figurative language (“raise the bar”)
- Change direct quotes to indirect (says that)
- Omit examples & illustrations

Practice again

China struggles to digest food safety laws

By Hu Ying

Recent food-safety crises have highlighted the challenges that China faces in trying to regulate the diffuse food industry. Provincial and local officials throughout China are facing increasing pressure from Beijing to address the situation, particularly since both President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao publicly pledged to improve food safety and product quality. Despite speeches, updated laws and ad hoc committee meetings in Beijing, little is being done to change practices and increase safety and quality at the lower levels. If a lasting improvement is going to be achieved, provincial-level officials will have to increase their capacity and willingness to address unsafe production practices.

Asia Times Online, August 28, 2007:

http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China_Business/IH28Cb01.html

106 words...

One version

Although China's president and premier are onboard to improve China's food and product quality, unsafe practices at the local level will be hard to fix.*

25 words = about 1/4



Add citation material...

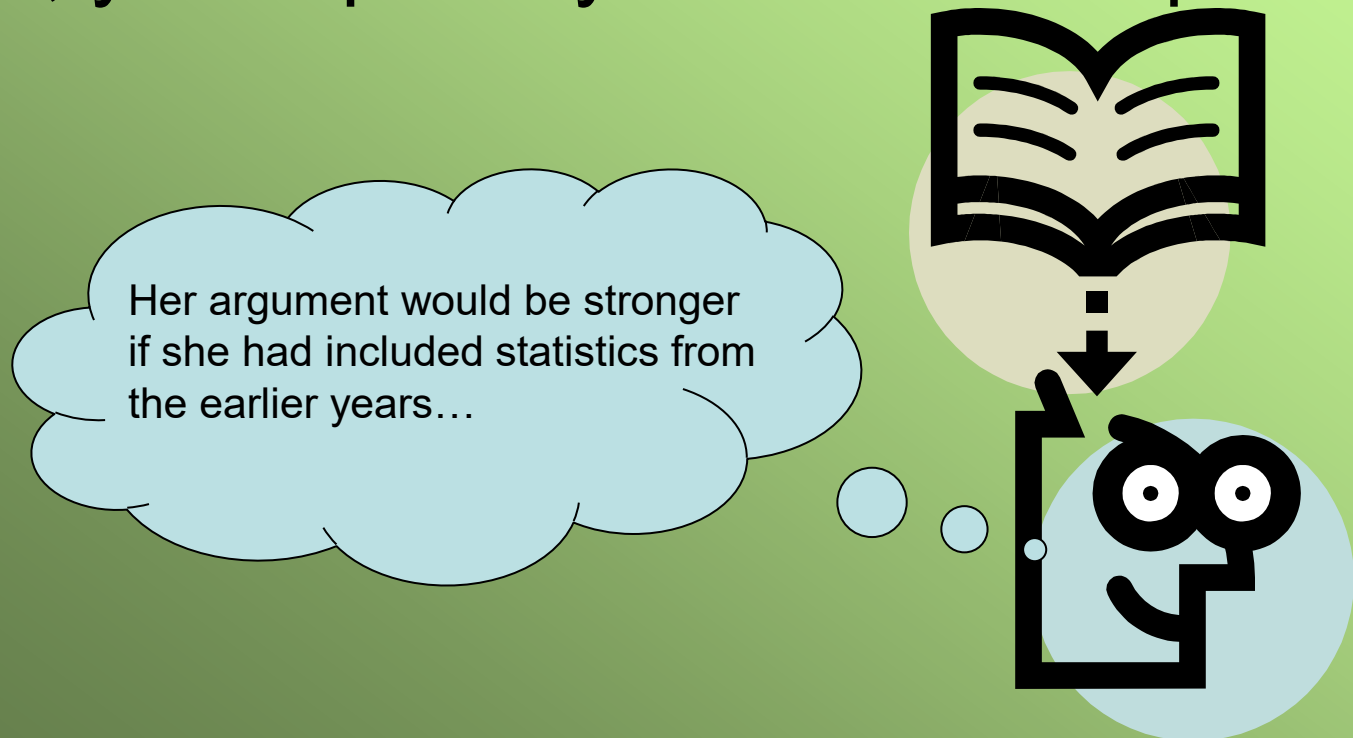
Although China's president and premier are onboard to improve China's food and product quality, unsafe practices at the local level will be hard to fix, according to Hu Ying, writing for the Asia Times Online.

Usually you summarize and...

- Respond
- Evaluate
- Compare
- Critique

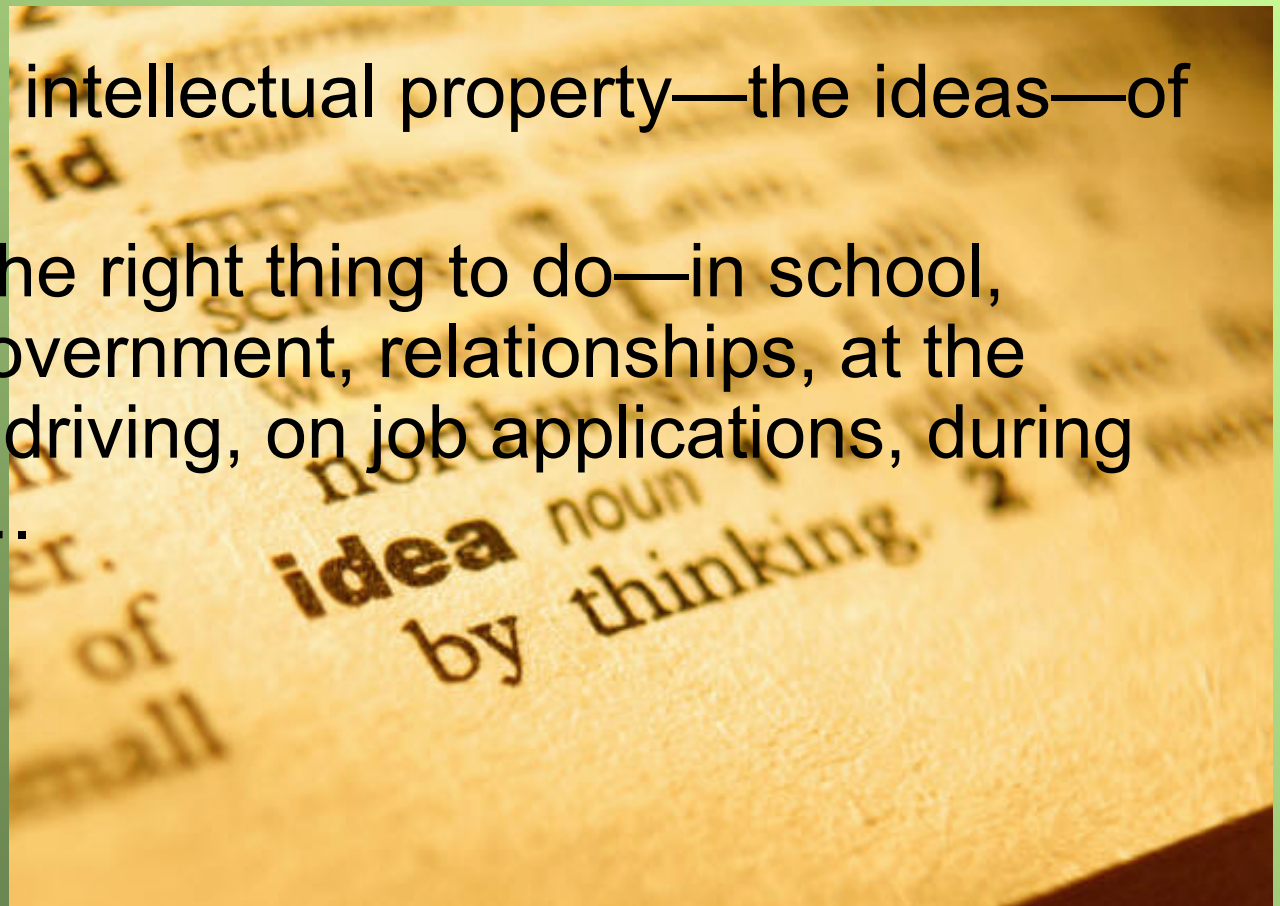
To agree, or not to agree?

- The *summary* does *not* include your opinion
- When you evaluate, respond, compare, or critique, you express your informed opinion



Intellectual honesty

- Know the difference between your thoughts and ideas and the thoughts and ideas of other people.
- Respect the intellectual property—the ideas—of others
- Honesty is the right thing to do—in school, business, government, relationships, at the store, while driving, on job applications, during interviews.....





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Write on!



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