

What is a summary?

A **summary** is a short statement that **summarizes** or informs the audience of the main ideas of a longer piece of writing. Essentially, the summary is a short version of a longer text. The size of a summary can vary based on the type of writing, but most often they are no longer than a page. Summaries can be found at the end of a piece of literature, such as on the back cover of a book. They are used to give an overview of what happens in the writing and review the main themes.

Is a summary short or long?

Summaries can be either short or long depending on what is being written.

Traditional summaries, such as those found in the back of a novel, are usually 1-2 pages at the most. Brief summaries, such as an abstract, are preferred in research papers and are between 200-400 words.

How do we write a summary?

There is a process to ensure that your summary is both effective and interesting.

1. Read through your main text
2. Identify the main ideas in your article while you write by creating a list.
3. Write in your own words in the article. This will help prevent plagiarism.
4. Keep the summary short, unbiased, and ensure your writing flows well from idea to idea.
5. Review your summary by comparing it to the main work. Paraphrase, check for spelling and grammar, and ensure there is not any plagiarism happening.