

Notes from Writing Workshop  
1/28/05  
Summarizing vs. Critiquing

Summary

- Simplify to key components/arguments
- Sense of what the paper is trying to share
- Put it in your own words (present tense)
- No external information
- Distilling text
- Usually does not include quotations
- Shorter than original (A good guide can be to write one sentence per paragraph though in some cases that may be too much.)

Purposes

- Note-taking, self guide
- Share the information with someone else
- Annotated bibliography
- Embedded in another text (literature review, book review, abstract)

How is Paraphrasing different than summarizing?

A paraphrase is usually as long as the original while a summary is usually shorter.

Critique/Evaluation

- Not necessarily criticism
- Gives your point of view
- OK to use short quotations
- Point out what the authors left out
- Compare authors' work to someone else's (or to other external factors)
- Talk about the quality of the writing
- Look at the argument, evidence, assumptions, framework and/or research methods (Verbs that indicate argument: confirms, explains, (dis)proves, implies, refutes, accounts for....)

Purposes

- See purposes of summary

Writing a Critique

1. Start with a brief summary
2. Evaluate the argument based on a set of criteria (set by you or your course assignment)
3. Analyze evidence