



Definition

Summary: A brief statement that gives a clear idea of the main idea and main points of something.

Purpose

1. To improve reading comprehension
2. To briefly present the key points of a theory or work in order to provide context for your argument/thesis

Steps for Summarizing a Reading Passage

1. Preview the reading passage for title, subtitles, bolded and italicized words, and any pictures. In the margin, write a prediction next to the title, each subtitle, and picture regarding what you think this reading passage is about.
2. Next, read the passage one paragraph at a time, paying particular attention to the first sentence and last sentence in the paragraph.
3. In the margin, write a 1-3 word 'label' for the content of each paragraph.

Summarize information by section

1. Read a single section or group of paragraphs.
2. Mark the *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how* details with the *Reading Voice*.
3. Use the *Thinking Voice* to consider what the details in this paragraph reveal about (the topic)? Label the group of details in 1-3 words.

**1-3 word
label**

Summarize individual sections of informational text

Read the section or group of paragraphs and add a 1-3 word label to summarize what it's about.



ShamWow!

Hi, it's Vince with ShamWow! You'll be saying, "Wow," every time you use this towel. It's like a shammy. It's like a towel. It's like a sponge. A regular towel doesn't work wet. This works wet or dry. This is for the house, the car, the boat, the RV.

ShamWow! holds 12 times its weight in liquid. Look at this. It just does the work.

Why would you want to work twice as hard? It doesn't drip. It doesn't make a mess. Wring it out. You wash it in the washing machine. Made in Germany—you know the Germans always make good stuff.

Here's some cola—wine, coffee, cola, pet stain. Not only is that damage going to be on top. There's your mildew. That is going to smell. Look at this. Put it on the spill. Turn it over. Without even putting any pressure—50% of the cola... right there. You following me, camera guy? The other 50%, the color, starts to come up. No other towel's going to do that. It acts like a vacuum, and look at this—virtually dry on the bottom.

"I can't live without it. I just love it!"

"Oh my gosh, I don't even buy paper towels anymore."

"If you're going to wash your cars or any kind of vehicle, you'd be out of your mind not to own one of these."

"All I can say is Sham... Wow!"

Versatile

**Works on
liquid spills**

**Saves from
damage &
stains**

**Customer
love**

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4. Decide how the ideas in the labels are related. In the example above, all four labels indicate reasons why ShamWow viewers should buy this product. However, sometimes the labels should be grouped according to similarity. For example, if you were to read an article about COVID-19, your labels for the different paragraphs might be placed in three different groups: causes, symptoms, and treatments.
5. Write a sentence for each of the labels/groups.
6. Start your summary with a topic sentence¹. It should include the name of the author, the title of the passage, and the main idea of the piece.
In the video ShamWow, Vince Offer claims that versatility is the reason why customers purchase ShamWow!
7. After you have written your topic sentence, write a supporting sentence² for each of your supports for the main idea.
It quickly and easily absorbs liquid spills.

¹ Topic sentence: The sentence that states the main idea of the paragraph. It is usually the first sentence in the paragraph.

² Supporting sentence: A sentence that talks about or explains the topic sentence. It does not include examples, statistics, or minor details.

8. End the summary paragraph with a concluding sentence³.
9. Compare what you have written to the ideas expressed in the reading passage, being sure that you have not changed the author's original meaning.
10. Be sure that you have used your own words throughout your paragraph.
In the video ShamWow, Vince Offer claims that versatility is the reason why customers purchase ShamWow! It quickly and easily absorbs liquid spills. Not only that, but also ShamWow protects your possessions from damage and stains. Consequently, customers love ShamWow's versatility.

³ Concluding sentence: This is usually the last sentence in the paragraph. It can conclude the paragraph by paraphrasing your topic sentence.