

Questioning as we learn: An introduction to critical thinking

Material for Higher Education students in Sierra Leone by INASP, UK



Provided by the Critical Thinking Taskforce (CTTF) within the project AQHEd-SL

Unit 2 - Snippet 54



Optional practical activity – Summary writing

After having seen how text structures and graphic organizers can help you better understand non-fiction, let's practise writing a summary that clearly identifies the author's purpose. Choose a text that you have read or are supposed to read in your studies and write a short summary to state the author's purpose. The task will be easier if you complete a graphic organizer before writing the summary. Keep in mind the following guidelines as you write a summary:

- Begin by stating the article's focus and the author's purpose
- Reflect the article's emphasis accurately
- Include the main points only; delete details
- Use your own wording and sentence style, but preserve the article's meaning
- Include only the ideas in the article; do not include your opinion or ideas
- Stay within appropriate length (about a quarter or less of the original text)

The following summary structure with some examples of sentence starters may help.

Purpose: "The author's purpose is ..."	Short content description: "The text includes ..."	Conclusion: "The author concludes ..."
to inform / present / explain	examples of / references to / the steps	
to raise awareness of	descriptions / solutions	
to argue for / persuade	arguments for / against	