

## SEMINAR 10 SUMMARY WRITING, COSMETIC SURGERY

### SUMMARY (ABSTRACT) WRITING

#### *What is summary writing*

The abstract or summary of a statement, thesis, paper, or other document is a shorter version of the originals providing its gist (main idea).

#### *Aim of summary writing*

The aim of a summary is to give the reader a clear, objective, accurate and balanced account of a written or spoken text. After reading the abstract, someone may decide to read the whole document. The abstract or summary should be understandable even when read separately from the original.

### TIPS FOR WRITING A GOOD SUMMARY

In a short summary, it's a good idea to follow these steps:

**Step 1** read the passage carefully several times

**Step 2** write down key words and expressions that remind you of them

**Step 3** expand your key words into a sentence or two

Example:

#### **Step 1** Passage:

Some scientists and students as well as some other people from the non-academic environment do not like the idea that the word “science” is applied for both natural and social sciences. They express their disapproval<sup>1</sup> of the use of the term “science” in the context of the social sciences, such as sociology, economics or political science, claiming<sup>2</sup> that the fundamental principles on which science is based, which are exactness, precision, unquestionable certainty and the clear ability to formulate general laws that are applicable<sup>3</sup> to the natural sciences such as chemistry and physics, do not reach the same level in the social studies and therefore should not be called sciences.

1 disapproval – nesouhlas

2 claim – tvrdit, prohlašovat

3 applicable – použitelný, vhodný

### Abstract MadLibs!!

This paper presents a \_\_\_\_\_ method for \_\_\_\_\_  
(synonym for new) (sciencey verb)  
the \_\_\_\_\_. Using \_\_\_\_\_, the  
(noun few people have heard of) (something you didn't invent)  
\_\_\_\_\_ was measured to be \_\_\_\_\_ +/- \_\_\_\_\_  
(property) (number) (number)  
\_\_\_\_\_. Results show \_\_\_\_\_ agreement with  
(units) (sexy adjective)  
theoretical predictions and significant improvement over  
previous efforts by \_\_\_\_\_, et al. The work presented  
(Loser)  
here has profound implications for future studies of  
\_\_\_\_\_ and may one day help solve the problem of  
(buzzword)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(supreme sociological concern)

Keywords: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
(buzzword) (buzzword) (buzzword)

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**Step 2** Key words:

1. some people
2. disagree
3. ‘science’
4. social sciences vs. natural sciences
5. lack of exactness, certainty and ability to formulate general laws

**Step 3** Summary:

Some people object to the use of the word ‘science’ in the social sciences on the grounds that such studies do not have the same degree of exactness, certainty and ability to formulate general laws as are found in the physical sciences such as chemistry and physics.

**Task 1** Read the following characteristics and decide which ones a summary must have in order to be effective.

- a) The same order of facts and ideas as the original
- b) Similar wording to the original with occasional phrases exactly the same
- c) Different sentence patterns from the original
- d) Additional information which the original writer omitted, but which helps to understand the subject
- e) A personal comment on the subject
- f) Simpler vocabulary than the original
- g) Key points of the original
- h) References to figures, tables, or sources
- i) An overall length that does not exceed 20% of the original source.
- j) Use of the first person singular

**Task 2** Using the knowledge regarding the characteristics of an effective summary (from Task 1), read the short text below and decide which of the following summaries are effective.

**TEXT**

All social sciences are “multi-theoretical”, that is, they are characterized by major theoretical disputes<sup>4</sup> and controversies. It is difficult to identify clearly, with identical labels for all disciplines, the various positions that are held. Scientists are repeatedly faced with the challenge<sup>5</sup> that there is no obvious<sup>6</sup> and straightforward<sup>7</sup> answer to social problems, and they often disagree just as, for example, economists disagree over the causes of a country’s economic crisis, and

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4 dispute – spor, hádka

5 challenge - výzva

6 obvious - zřejmý

7 straightforward - přímočarý

policemen and social workers disagree over the causes of such problems as vandalism. Although there is no certain or “one true” explanation of social problems, the fact that there are disagreements between social scientists is a virtue<sup>8</sup> rather than a drawback<sup>9</sup> because it shows the relevance<sup>10</sup> of the social sciences to the controversies and dilemmas facing society.

Adapted from: CJVA2B and Potter, David et al., ed.: Society and the Social Sciences, Open University Press, London, 1987, pp. 4-7.

### **Summary 1**

Social sciences (e.g. economics, geography, political science, psychology and sociology) have been described as multi-theoretical studies; in other words, social scientists hold various theoretical positions. This is considered a virtue rather than a defect<sup>11</sup>.

### **Summary 2**

The multi-theoretical character of social sciences is discussed. Theoretical controversies and the non-existence of one certain answer to social problems are seen as an advantage rather than a disadvantage as they reflect controversies within a society.

### **Summary 3**

All social sciences are “multi-theoretical”, that is, they are characterized by major theoretical disputes and controversies, various positions are held, there is no obvious and straightforward answer to social problems, and disagreement is frequent, for example, over the causes of a country’s economic crisis, over the causes of such problems as vandalism. But, the fact that there is no certain or “one true” explanation of social problems or disagreements between social scientists are virtues rather than drawbacks because they show the relevance<sup>12</sup> of the social sciences to the controversies and dilemmas facing society.

### **Summary 4**

In my opinion, the paragraph dealing with the idea that all social sciences are “multi-theoretical” is right because I think that all the supporting arguments, such as theoretical controversies or no single obvious and straightforward answer to social problems, are very true. However, I tend to disagree with the opinion presenting such a situation as an advantage of social sciences.

### **Summary 5**

This paragraph describes the nature of social sciences. General characteristics are shown and partly evaluated<sup>13</sup>. A comment on the relation between social sciences and society is mentioned.

**Task 3** You will be given a sheet of summary examples submitted by students of Masaryk University. Each summary is preceded or followed by its improved version. Carefully study, compare and seek to identify the faults in each of these pairs.

**Task 4** After reading the following mini passages summarize them briefly in your own words.

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8 virtue - ctnost

9 drawback - nevýhoda

10 relevance – důležitost, významnost

11 defect - nedostatek

12 relevance - závažnost

13 evaluated - vyhodnotené

1. It is undeniable that the large majority of non-native learners of English experience a number of problems in attempting to master the phonetic patterns of the language.

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2. Tea, whether of the China or Indian variety, is well known to be high on the list of those beverages which are most frequently drunk by the inhabitants of the British Isles.

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3. It is not uncommon to encounter sentences which, though they contain a great number of words and are constructed in a highly complex way, none the less turn out on inspection to convey very little meaning of any kind.

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4. One of the most noticeable phenomena in any big city, such as London or Paris, is the steadily increasing number of petrol-driven vehicles, some in private ownership, others belonging to the public transport system, which congest the roads and render rapid movement more difficult year by year.

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## Cosmetic Surgery

### 1. Pre-Listening exercise

Name **five** different types of cosmetic surgery and discuss why people select these procedures.

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### 2. Listening exercise

You are going to hear a speech on cosmetic and reconstructive surgery. Listen well and circle the correct answer.

1. According to the mini lecture, which situation was **NOT** mentioned as an example for reconstructive surgery?

- A. A young child is severely burned in a house fire.
- B. A woman isn't satisfied with the shape of her stomach.
- C. A man lost part of his ear in a boating accident.

2. What other effects do physical deformities have on the individual who bears them?

- A. a lack of self-worth
- B. inability to find work
- C. fewer educational opportunities

#### **IDIOMS!**

"have a face lift" = a surgical procedure in which doctors tighten the skin on the face to remove wrinkles

3. What other services do volunteers provide to the country where they perform reconstructive surgery?

- A. fund-raising activities
- B. physical therapy
- C. local health care training

*"I'm sure that the actress had a facelift so would look younger than she really is."*

4. How does this volunteer work benefit the providers of such surgical procedures?

- A. These experiences give doctors and nurses valuable in-field training opportunities.
- B. Volunteers establish connections for future medical research.
- C. Health care workers develop deeper understanding of the sufferings of others.

"nose job" = an operation to improve the appearance of one's nose

*"He's considering a nose job because he says people always comment on his nose."*

5. What is one way everyday people can help such causes?

- A. educate themselves on the issues
- B. make financial contributions
- C. adopt unwanted children