

# WRITING A SUMMARY OF A NEWS ARTICLE

## What is a Summary?

A summary is a short text that students write in order to provide their reader with the main idea of another piece of writing.

- 1) They are always much shorter than the original.
- 2) They contain only the most important information from the original.
- 3) They begin with the original text's main idea (this is the first sentence of the summary).
- 4) The student does not change any of the information that is in the original.
- 5) They are written in the student's own words (none of the phrases or sentences used by the original author are allowed).
- 6) They contain none of the student's opinions.
- 7) They are written for people who did not read the original article.

## Step by step

- 1. Read only the headline:** what do you expect to read about in the article?
- 2. Skim read:** Highlight important information regarding who, where, what and when. (Remember the pyramid style – most of the important details will be early in the article) Circle unfamiliar words and look them up in a dictionary
- 3. Actively read:** Identify and underline the main idea of the article. (*In the summary this will come first*)
- 4. Plan and write your summary**

## How should you organise a summary?

1. Think about it first and plan it (just like essay writing!) use the model at the bottom of the page
2. Your first sentence or two should state the **overall main idea** of the **whole** article.

Eg: *In the article, "Cellphones' Growth Does a Number on Health Research" by David Brown, the author writes that...*

This sentence needs to be broad enough to cover the **whole** article and not just one section of it.

3. The next sentence or two should explain the first major or important idea in the article.
4. The following sentence or two should explain the second major or important idea in the article.
5. The following sentence or two should explain the third major or important idea in the article.
6. The last sentence should explain how the author concluded or finished the article.

## Useful Phrases in a Summary:

- "This article is about....."
- "The author says that....."
- "According to the author, ....."
- "The article concludes by....."

