Summary-Critique

**Purpose:** The purpose is to summarize an article, series of articles, or book(s) and to offer a critique.

**Introduction:** The introduction familiarizes the audience with the contents of your article(s) or book. Include the name of the article(s) or book(s), the authors of those works, the publication date(s) and a thesis. Your thesis states the main point of your essay, or the critique of the work.

**Body paragraphs:** The two main parts of this essay are the summary and critique sections.

**Summary:** The first body paragraph is the summary of the article(s) or book(s).

The summary states the overall scope of the work you are studying, or the author’s purpose and the main points of the work. Use your own words to summarize rather than the author’s exact words. Do not offer any opinions in this section.

Questions to think about:

- What is the author’s overall purpose?
- What are the main points discussed in the work to support this purpose?

**Critique:** The next paragraph or two are a part of the critique section. The critique section is longer than the summary.

The critique section is an analysis of a few different components. Examples include the credentials of the author, the logic of his/her argument, the author’s assumptions, the methods used to reason, the style or tone of the work, the currency of the argument, and the successfulness of the author in proving his/her point.

_Important note to remember: Use the full name of the author the first time you reference him/her and the author’s last name any time after that._

Questions to think about:

- What are the credentials of the author?
- What is the purpose of the work?
- Does the author use proper means to collect evidence?
- Is this support used correctly?
- Does the author's statement of and analysis of this support guide the reader to the same conclusion?
- How does the author use reasoning?
- Does the author show any bias?
- Was the counter-argument stated and refuted?
- Is the article outdated? What is the tone of the work?
- How effective is the author at achieving his/her purpose?

**Conclusion**: The conclusion restates the main points addressed and gives a general opinion of the article(s) or book(s). It may also include a recommendation to the reader: who should read the article(s) or book(s)?

**Additional Help with Summary-Critique Essay:**

Notes for Summary Section:

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Notes for Critique Section:

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