



Writing a Summary Paragraph 6-9

- Underlining Text
- Step-by-Step Summary
- Final Paragraph

FREE!

Writing a Summary Paragraph

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This is a SAMPLE from a complete guide to paragraph writing!

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Writing-Informative-Paragraphs-Complete-Guide-with-Tips-Model>

Includes a blank worksheet of page 5 for students to fill in as the prewrite for a summary paragraph plus 8 additional models of paragraphs (process, cause/effect, etc.), an evaluation rubric and more—a 30+ page guide to this effective tool for writing-to-learn!



Writing a Summary

1 The Original Text

Read carefully. Underline, highlight, or take notes on the most important ideas.

One of the most destructive habits kids (or even adults) can do to do to themselves is to smoke cigarettes. Yet, one expert estimates that almost 4,000 students between 12 and 17 do start smoking every day. Most do not. One in every five high school students smokes and the percent of middle school students is much lower. More young people have serious health concerns that smoking can cause cancer and heart disease. To others, that seems like something that might not happen for a long time and they focus on the present without worrying about long-term effects on their bodies from smoking.

However, there are reasons not to smoke that kids should care about right now! Bad breath, yellow teeth and smelly clothes are not very attractive. Colds are more frequent and that's not fun. Who wants to be hacking and coughing as well? Not to mention the shortness of breath that accompanies smoking. It makes it harder to participate in sports or outdoor activities. The expense is another negative consideration. Cigarettes cost at least several dollars for one single pack and that is hard on the wallet, wasting allowance or hard-earned spending money that could go for more worthwhile things that won't be unhealthy. Make the choice of the majority of kids who don't smoke. They don't want disgusting and harmful secondhand smoke.



Writing a Summary

1 The Original Text HIGHLIGHTED

Read carefully. Underline, highlight, or take notes on the most important ideas.

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2 Summarizing the Original Text

If you are allowed to underline or highlight the text, select the main ideas and important details as you read carefully. This is not mass highlighting, but choosing phrases. You could also write down brief notes.

▶ 1 Answer 3 questions about the main topic of the whole reading.

Who/What? _____ [*Young people*] _____

Verb? _____ [*should not smoke*] _____

Finish the thought? _____ [*for many reasons*] _____

▶ 2 Rewrite the phrases as a complete thesis statement:

Young people should not smoke for many reasons.

▶ 3 Create a fact outline using the key phrases you identified in the reading giving evidence and detail that supports the thesis:

- Most kids don't smoke
- Long-term can cause cancer and heart disease
- Right now causes bad breath, yellow teeth, smelly clothes
- More frequent colds, coughing, shortness of breath
- Expensive
- Exposes others to secondhand smoke

▶ 4 Write a summary paragraph using the thesis and details in the outline. Add a lead and restate the thesis in the conclusion.

[See the next page]



Summary Paragraph Model

Sample prompt: *Summarize why students should not start smoking.*
(Other possible stems might be: *tell what the whole reading is about; what are two or more main ideas and how they are supported by key details; what is this text about; and so on.*)

Almost 4,000 students from 12-17 start smoking each day. There are both immediate and long-term reasons young people should not smoke. It can cause cancer, heart problems, and other serious diseases. Yellow teeth, bad breath and clothes that smell like cigarettes are unattractive. Kids who smoke are more likely to get colds, to cough a lot, and to be short of breath when exercising. It is expensive to buy cigarettes. Finally, non-smokers don't like to inhale unhealthy and foul secondhand smoke. It is a very smart decision to consider the short-term and future consequences and go along with the majority of students who don't smoke.