

Four-Part Précis Summary

Your summary may be as short as four sentences (although this is very difficult) but should be no more than seven. The correctly written summary must contain the following four parts.

Part one includes:

- Name of author and phrase
- Type and title of the work
- A rhetorically accurate verb (see back for list of some verbs you can use)
- A clause in which the main idea is stated clearly
- No more than one sentence

Part two includes:

- The main supporting ideas presented in the same order they appear in the original text.
- In your own words (paraphrased, not copied)
- Transitions are used so that ideas are linked logically to each other (see back for some transition words you can use)

Part three includes:

- The specific genre (autobiographical narrative, persuasive essay, fictional story, etc)
- An “in order to” phrase which explains the author’s purpose and/or what the author wants the audience to do or feel as a result of reading the work.

Part four includes:

- A correctly written works cited section
- The précis has been proofread and edited.

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English 2C

16 Nov. 2011

Precis " _____ "

_____ " _____ "

explains that _____.

First,

Then,

Next,

As a result,

Finally,

_____ writes this _____ in order to

_____.

Work Cited

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Précis "My Struggle to Read"

Tom Cruise, in his narrative article "My Struggle to Read," describes his reading disabilities and how he overcame them, and explains how he now helps others who have similar reading problems. **First**, Cruise recounts how he gave up on his childhood dreams because of his reading disability, called dyslexia. **Next**, he explains how growing up, he never learned how to read well because he made excuses to avoid reading. **Then**, Cruise notes that he finally put reading as a priority and received help. **As a result**, he realized he could accomplish anything. **Finally**, he discusses the programs that he has set up to help others who are going through the same thing that he did. Cruise writes this autobiographical narrative **in order to** inform others of his reading problems and to encourage people to put reading as a priority.

Work Cited

Cruise, Tom. "My Struggle to Read." *People Magazine* 21 July 2003. Print.

RHETORICALLY ACTIVE VERBS

Argues
 Claims
 Suggests
 asserts
 Explains
 Illustrates
 Telling
 Distinguishes

Discusses
 Defines
 Countering
 Notes that
 Asks
 Acknowledges
 Analyzes
 Restates

Declares
 Notes
 Points out that
 Compares
 Contrasts
 Shows that
 Describes
 Illustrates

TRANSITIONS

Addition	and and then then also	too next another other	in addition additionally	besides again first, second finally, last
Comparison	a similar x another x like		similarly comparable	in the same way likewise
Contrast	but yet and yet still otherwise	or though but another rather	however still nevertheless on the other hand even so	at the same time otherwise instead nonetheless conversely
Time	then now soon afterward later shortly earlier	recently first, second, third next before after today tomorrow	meanwhile presently at last finally immediately thereafter	at that time eventually currently in the meantime in the past in the future
Purpose	to do this so that		to this end for this purpose	for that reason because of this x
Place	there here beyond	nearby next to	at that point opposite to adjacent to	on the other side in the front in the back
Result	so and so then		therefore accordingly consequently	thereupon as a result in consequence
Example	that is specifically in particular for one thing		for example for instance an instance of this this can be seen in	
Summary and Emphasis	in sum generally after all by the way in general	naturally at least it seems in brief incidentally	in short in other words in fact clearly of course anyway	remarkably definitely without doubt in any event importantly certainly

Verbs that describe what texts do

adds (e.g. adds detail)	projects
analyzes	proposes
argues	qualifies
asks	questions
cites	quotes
compares	reasons
connects	rebutts
continues	reflects
contradicts	repeats
contrasts	states
demonstrates	speculates
describes	suggests
details	summarizes
dramatizes	supports
elaborates	synthesizes
evaluates	traces
explains	uses
expresses	
extends	
generalizes	
illustrates	
informs	
interprets	
introduces	
lists	
narrates	
offers	
opposes	
predicts	
presents	