

Academic Writing Guide: Summarizing

Definition: A summary is a short, clear description that gives the main facts or ideas about something.

Summarizing is a useful tool when writing papers. Summaries highlight the key ideas from an article that you are reading rather than rephrasing it in your own words.

Original Text:

As a general rule, editors and publishers will acknowledge plagiarism in their publications and publish an apology when plagiarism has been proven. Inevitably, the plagiarist is identified in the published apology.

But the matter, sadly, does not always end there. Suspicion is sometimes directed at graduate qualifications awarded to plagiarists. Plagiarised publications will certainly not be accepted by tenure committees. Even the present job held by an identified plagiarist may be threatened. Furthermore, once a plagiarist's activity has been advertised, editors and publishers everywhere will be very reluctant to consider any future manuscripts an identified plagiarist might wish to publish.

Avoid plagiarism like the plague. Do not be tempted to plagiarise the works of others. It is simply not worth it, for plagiarists will certainly publish and perish (Smith 777-78).

Preparing the Summary (step-by-step):

1. Author: James P. Smith, *Journal of Advanced Nursing*
2. Main idea: the cost of plagiarism is not worth the risk.
3. Key ideas:
 - "Editors and publishers will acknowledge plagiarism in their publications and publish an apology when plagiarism has been proven... the plagiarist is identified."
 - "The matter does not always end there." Plagiarism follows the person who has plagiarised, and it may adversely affect that person's career by preventing promotion or further publications.
 - Advice: Avoid plagiarism like the plague.
4. Write your summary
5. Include a citation: (Smith 777-78).

Summary:

James P. Smith, in a *Journal of Advanced Nursing* editorial, argues that the cost to someone's career ultimately makes plagiarism not worth the risk. Even after formal public apology, a known plagiarist will find it difficult to get papers published, qualify for tenured positions at academic institutions, and may even find their current job in jeopardy. He advises, no matter how tempting it may be, avoid plagiarizing (Smith 777-78).

Steps to Summarizing:

1. Note the author and source.
2. Identify the main idea of passage.
3. List the supporting ideas from the passage.
4. Write your summary by combining steps 1-3. Be sure to paraphrase any information that comes from the text.
5. Include a citation.

For additional help, please make an appointment with a Writing & Learning Centre Humanities specialist at: <https://alexander.mywconline.com/>

Work Cited

Smith, James P. "Plagiarists Publish and Perish." *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, vol. 30 no. 4, 1999, pp. 777-778. *Academic Search Premier*. 10.1046/j.1365-2648.1999.01173.x.
Accessed 13 Feb. 2021.