

Summary vs. Analysis

Summary	Analysis
A summary condenses and restates the context of a text in original language. It is the what of a text. It gives the facts . <i>“Just the facts, Madam or Sir.”</i>	An analysis breaks a text into smaller pieces in order to examine each piece . It is the how of a text. it explains how the writing and argument are or aren’t effective .
It allows the reader to get the “ gist ” of the text. It allows the reader to determine if the text is useful and trustworthy .	
<p>To write a summary, you must provide the main points of a text in your words.</p> <p>Try dividing the text into sections and writing the main idea of each section in one or two sentences. Write the main idea of the entire text in one or two sentences. Try combining your sentences into a complete paragraph.</p>	<p>To write an analysis, you must describe a piece of the text in detail and give your interpretation of how that piece makes its point.</p> <p><i>Read the text with a critical eye:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. What is the author arguing for/against?</i><i>2. Why are they arguing this?</i><i>3. What evidence or solutions does she give, and are they valid?</i><i>4. What kind of logical, ethical, or emotional appeals does she use?</i>
Summaries can be used to help you take notes from class readings, answer exam questions, write abstracts for long essays, and introduce book or literature reviews.	Analysis can be used to help you respond to a text, develop a thesis statement, and select appropriate sources for a research paper.

Summary vs. Analysis Example:

“Considering the numerous uncertainties surrounding e-cigarettes...the United Nations organization said it was appropriate to prohibit their use indoors ‘until exhaled vapour is proven to be not harmful to bystanders.’” – David Jolly and Katrina Travernise, *The New York Times*, August 26, 2014

Summary: The United Nations supports a ban on e-cigarettes being used indoors because of a lack of proof about their harmfulness.

Analysis: In citing “uncertainties” and the need for proof in its judgment of e-cigarette use indoors, the United Nations makes hard data the principal consideration in public health decisions.