

# Blog post - prepublication writing of summary

## This piece of writing

- This writing: Summary of a BBC News article
- Suggested work length: 150 words maximum. Do **not** exceed this limit.
- Suggested time: 60 minutes (Planning = 30; writing = 15; editing = 15)  
It normally takes me longer to write a 135 - 150 word summary than it does to write a 300 - 500 word response. Your summary is academic writing.
- Grading rubric: based on IELTS writing 1

## Publication

When you are ready to publish your piece of writing:

- create a new blog post
- give it a title in the format: **Nickname: something interesting that fits your work**
- Copy your work from below. First the summary paragraph. Then the reference citation. (Your response and question for readers will come later.)
- Paste it into the blog post. **Paste without formatting**. We do not want the formatting from this or any other document, certainly not the formatting from the BBC. If your browser does not give you a "Paste without formatting" option, use **Ctrl+Shift+V**
- You can either publish your blog post with just the summary and reference citation or publish it later, after you have written your response and question.
- In your summary, make the title of the article bold and a link to your source article. Also make the URL in your reference citation a link to the source.

## Write it

- Choose one of the following four ways to start your summary paragraph. Fill in the ArticleTitle. Select and write over ...
  - It's a good idea to copy and paste the Article Title from your source, but when you paste, paste without formatting. Or use **Ctrl+Shift+V**
  - Delete the AuthorNames information if the author of the article is unknown.
  - When you are finished, delete any footnotes.
- Check the word count by selecting your text and using Google Word count tool.
- Do not add images here; just write your sentences and paragraphs. It is, however, a very good idea to add an image from your source to your one paragraph summary on the blog.

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*Write on the following page.*

## summary paragraph = less than 150 words

Although the traditional paper and pen are perfectly adequate, I do my planning in MS OneNote, from which I printed a pdf file you might also like [to look at](#).

According to<sup>1</sup> “ArticleTitle” by<sup>2</sup> AuthorFirst LastNames (2021), ...

In “Bill Gates: Solving Covid easy compared with climate”, Justin Rowlett (2021) says that when he interviewed him, billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates expressed optimism that humanity would be able to solve it, despite climate change being far more challenging than Covid-19 has proven. According to Rowlett, Gates thinks that the “moral conviction” of concerned young people can help push governments to adopt the policies needed to encourage greener economic decisions so that the full cost of the energy and goods we consume is paid for, rather than being inflicted on the environment as in the past. Responding to the conspiracy theories some level at him, Gates, who recently published *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster*, said he has and will continue to ignore them as he now raises his voice to speak on the urgency of climate change in addition to his work of many years on global health issues.

v.1 = 158 words. v.2 = 152 words. v.3 = 149 - then proofreading = 150 (v.3 needed more substantial revision, but now within the 150 word limit, and I’m happy with it, at least for now.) My source is 1,276 words.

All up, it’s about 80 minutes’ work. As I expected, most of that time was spent in pre-writing. Google’s records tell me it took about 20 minutes to write and edit the above paragraph - short.

Also see [my summary the following day of another article](#) on the BBC News - an easier article to summarize.

In “ArticleTitle” by AuthorFirst LastNames (2021), we learn that / we are told that / it is reported that ...

“ArticleTitle” by AuthorFirst LastNames (2021) says/tells us ...

## Reference<sup>3</sup>

Rowlett, J. (2021, February 15). *Bill Gates: Solving Covid easy compared with climate*. BBC. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-56042029>

*ArticleTitle*. (2021, month date). BBC. LinkURL

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<sup>1</sup> If you use this language, there is no *verb says/tells/etc.* following.

<sup>2</sup> If you delete the author’s name, this preposition must also be deleted.

<sup>3</sup> Complete the reference citation for your chosen source according to whether you know the author’s name or not. Write over the notes in the example. Note that the article title here is in *italics*.

- If you know the author’s name, that always comes first in the reference citation. If you do not know the author’s name, which is often the case for BBC articles, the title of the article comes first, formatted in *italics*.
- If you do know the author’s name, write only the Last name and I(nitial) letters only of first or middle names.
- Do not include titles: ~~Mr., Dr., Prof.~~ etc are never included in reference citations.
- For more information and examples, see the excellent [OWL at Purdue](#) website.