Writing 2 First Unit Assignment: The Summary Paper

Due Sunday, October 22, midnight

Send to gegan@umail.ucsb.edu

Your first assignment is to write a five-page paper that summarizes one of the
Writing about the World essays that we are reading for the Science Unit.

Purpose of the assignment

This assignment gives you the opportunity to:

• Gain exposure to academic discourse about science.
• Perform a close, accurate reading of a sophisticated, complex text.
• Summarize that text in an academic paper using a combination of direct quote,
  paraphrase, and your own words.

Alternatives

If you like, you can choose an unassigned reading, either from Writing about the World or elsewhere. It is important that you summarize a text that engages and interests you, so feel free to look for your own choices. You must, however, get my approval for an alternate choice, and your choice must be about science.

Paper structure

Introduction: Begin with an introductory paragraph that summarizes the main point or thesis of the essay. Remember, you are not forwarding your own thesis in this paragraph or in the paper. You are simply summarizing another writer’s thesis.

Body: The body of your paper should provide a tour of the essay that is mainly sequential. That is, summarize the essay primarily from beginning to end. This sequential approach is logical but not an absolute requirement. There will be times when a writer’s discussion of a given point recurs in different places in the essay. In such cases, you should be logical rather than sequential. Work to create an artful and sophisticated blend of your own words, direct quotation, and paraphrase of the essay. Follow the approaches we have discussed in class and that are provided in the sample essay.

Conclusion: Close the paper with a concluding paragraph that mirrors the introduction, summarizing the main point or thesis of the essay, while briefly recapitulating the points that you have covered.

Paper format

Use the following format:
Times New Roman 12 point typeface
Double space
1-inch margins at top, bottom, right, and left
Right-aligned running header in the format Lastname #