

English 092 Unit 5.3

Sample Summary Assignment – Do not submit this assignment

Review the step-by-step guide on "How to Write a Summary" in Chapter 19 in your textbook. Then, in a single paragraph 200-250 words long, write a summary of the essay "Our Environmental Shame" by David Suzuki.

Available as a handout or at

http://www.davidsuzuki.org/About_us/Dr_David_Suzuki/Species.asp

Your audience for this summary is a college/university student who is writing a research essay on the measures Canada has taken and should take to protect its wildlife. That student needs a quick explanation of Suzuki's main points to know where he stands and why. This will help the student to decide whether or not to read the whole essay.

In this assignment, you should

- craft an opening sentence that states the name of the essay being summarized, the name of the author of that essay, and the main point or argument of that essay.
- explain the main ideas of the essay that support or explain the main argument (that is, the main reasons Suzuki thinks what he thinks)
- give the main ideas in the same order in which they appear in the original essay
- connect the main ideas with appropriate transitions or linking expressions
- omit any examples, facts, or illustrations, or other minor details that support the main ideas
- state all of Suzuki's ideas in your own words and using your own sentence structures
- state the ideas as concisely as possible-avoid unnecessarily wordy or artificial expressions, repetition, words that mean more or less the same thing, and so on
- leave out any of your opinions about Suzuki's arguments or writing style
- write clear and correct sentences
- present/format your assignment correctly

See Unit 5.3.1 for a sample student summary of "Our Environmental Shame".