

One-page article summaries/critiques (Times Roman 12pt, single spaced)

There is no unique way to write a good summary. Yet, when you have written one, your readers will recognize it as such. Perhaps a good way to write the summary part is to write up (a) the area to which the paper contributes, and the particular question(s) the paper addresses (b) the main results of the paper, (c) the approach that is taken to get to the results, (d) the intuition for the result. Critiquing does not necessarily mean that you argue why something is bad science, or even wrong. To the contrary you may want to argue why the research is a great step forward. But, then again, only positive criticism may not be helpful in improving research. It is useful for readers to learn for instance if the scope of a paper is limited (because of restrictive or unrealistic assumptions).

Hints:

- Don't bother too much about details in the context of your abstract. For example, if you summarise a theory paper with a model, don't summarize the model itself, but the intuition.
- Pick your battles and don't mention each individual result in the summary. The summaries are about the main message.
- Read a few abstracts and introductions of published work and see if you can distill the elements (a)-(d) above.
- In English academic writing, the first sentence of each paragraph is the most important one.
- Make one point per paragraph
- Use short sentences.
- Don't introduce difficult terms, unless really needed.
- The best abstract read very easily.
- Let your friends and colleagues comment on your abstracts before submitting.
- Students can email/hand in draft copies of the one-page summary. In fact, expect us to come back with comments! Keep in mind that the better the draft you have in, the easier will it be to provide useful feedback.

Econ 499: Honours seminar.
About the one-page summaries/critiques

Student name:

Summaries/critiques:

General

- ☐ Submission on time
- ☐ Style requirements: One page? ____; Full article reference? ____; In own words? ____

Style

- ☐ Abstract has paragraph structure
- ☐ Technically correct English
- ☐ Written well: paragraphs ____; sentences ____
- ☐ Content abstract introduced in sensible order?
- ☐ Avoidance complicated terminology?

Content

- ☐ Statement of area paper contributes: Clear ____; Correct ____
- ☐ Statement of research question: Clear ____; Correct ____
- ☐ Statement of contribution/novelty: Clear ____; Correct ____
- ☐ Exposition framework (e.g. outline model): Clear ____; Correct ____
- ☐ Statement of main results: Clear ____; Correct ____
- ☐ Explanation of the intuition behind the results: Clear ____; Correct ____
- ☐ Critique: Clear ____; Relevant ____
- ☐ Focus: author does not pursue tangents

Other comments