

Some Definition on Summary, Explanation, Analysis and Critique

Summary

“... to write a summary—a brief, objective restatement of the source in your own words.”

“A summary includes only key points and focuses on a source, not on your responses to it.”

Explanation

“Explanation help readers to understand: They make clear, for a particular audience, what or where something is, how it works, or what it means.”

“... explain, compare, describe, define, etc.” - “...by explaining parts and their relationship to one another, you explain the whole.”

Analysis

“An analysis is an argument in which you study the parts of something to understand what it is made of, how it works, what it means, what its problems may be, or why it might be significant.”

“You continue with your analysis of parts until you have assembled enough information to make a generalization about the whole: about what your subject is made of, how it works, what it means, or why it is significant. That generalization becomes the main claim of your analysis.”

“... an analysis is not a summary [or an explanation]; it is beyond this.”

Critique

“A critique is a formal, written evaluation of a source. In it, you judge the effectiveness and reliability of someone’s work and discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree, approve or disapprove.”

“It is a formal evaluation of a text.”

“If in so many words an assignment asks you to evaluate or pass judgment, it is asking for a critique.”