Summary (closed source – one *WRAC* article)

Develops from a close reading of one article that elicits key ideas, concepts, &/or arguments. The summary is independent of the author’s exact words, reporting what the author said, not evaluating or offering an opinion. The goal of summary is to help the reader learn the essential information and line of argument contained in the source text in a brief, objective, and accurate re-writing.

Critique (closed source – one *WRAC* article)

Written analysis of one article that focuses on the logic, evidence, underlying assumptions, and reasons given for a position advanced in one article, incorporating summary of the source article, but with the summary serving to advance understanding of the source text through a consideration of the significance and/or implications of the argument made in the article, not to persuade the reader to any particular belief or action.

Comparative Critique (closed source – two *WRAC* articles)

Written analysis of two source articles that address a common issue, concern, or “object.” The paper provides a brief summary of the sources while identifying and analyzing the common position(s) addressed by both writers as well as significant differences. The summary and comparison should be combined as a synthesis of the two sources that precedes point-by-point rather than source-by-source. The analysis considers the source articles arguments, evidence, logic, reasons, and underlying assumptions; it analyzes how each author establishes his/her position on the issue.

Comparative Analysis (closed source – two *WRAC* articles & one outside “object”)

Written analysis of “something out there” through the theoretical lens provided by two source texts that analyze similar objects. The paper focuses on the object of analysis, not the sources; it engages the reader in a deeper sense of discovery about the object of analysis. The paper establishes how these sources view their “object,” what arguments or positions are advanced, and in what ways the sources relate to each other. The paper then goes on to an analysis of a different object in the same class of objects testing the approaches taken by the source articles.

Research-based Analysis (partially open)

Building on the “object” discussed in the comparative analysis, the paper requires a continuation of research in an effort to deepen the understanding of the object, providing a larger context for analysis. By synthesizing and applying the most useful sources from the comparative analysis with new research and further inquiry, the author is able to support and extend his/her analysis. The thesis statement/major claim should evolve throughout as sources are put into conversation with one another, complicating and expanding the object/issue being analyzed.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Papers | Focus | # of Sources | Control of Sources |
| Summary | Text | One | Controlled |
| Critique | Text | One | Controlled |
| Comparative Critique | Object | Two | Controlled |
| Comparative Analysis | Object | Two-Three | Controlled |
| Research-based Analysis | Text & Object | Multiple | Partially Open |