

RESEARCH SUMMARY 1

Write a two-page, double-spaced paper summarizing a specific viewpoint source (a source in which the author makes an argument and takes a position on an issue or controversy) and explaining the author and publication's credibility and bias.

Format: Refer to the Little Longhorn Handbook for **MLA formatting style and citation guidelines**.

Specifics: Your paper should do the following:

1. Draw from a viewpoint article:

- Make sure the article's author is *credible* and was written in the last five years.
- Find the article from a library database (not from Google).
- Properly cite the article using MLA. Put this citation at the *top* of your page.

2. Introduce the controversy:

- Before you summarize: Identify your controversy and explain how the source is relevant to it.
- Explain how you found this source: Which database(s) did you search and why? What keywords did you use in your search(es)?
- Where was this article published? Why is that important? (*New York Times* vs. *The Daily Texan*, for example)

3. Identify the author's bias and justify the article's credibility:

- What is the author's stake in the controversy? What bias does the author have?
- How do you know this source is credible? What research did you do to validate its claims?
- What do you know about the publication? What bias does the publication have?

4. Summarize the author's position:

- Introduce the author's argument with a single sentence that sums up the main argument of the article. (This sentence will probably start with: "The author of this article argues...")
- Don't try to cover all of the author's points. Instead, summarize the information and only include the information that is relevant to the **main point**.
- Stay as close to the text as possible, quoting the author's exact words at times.
- Use attributions and signal phrases (such as "Smith says" or "according to Bell") when quoting or paraphrasing the source.
- Do not offer your own opinions about the argument--just summarize it fairly.

Turn this in on Canvas (.doc, .docx, or .pdf only) by Wednesday, June 7th at 5 pm.

RESEARCH SUMMARY 2 RUBRIC

		FULL POINTS	NO POINTS
15 POINTS	Articulation of the article's main points.	Clearly defines what the author's main point is and organizes the summary around this information.	Doesn't prioritize some information over others, author's most important point is difficult to determine. Paraphrases argument without clear organization
10 POINTS	Credibility and bias	Demonstrates research on the author and on the publication and makes a persuasive argument for the credibility of both.	No discussion of what makes the article credible or what bias the author might hold
5 POINTS	Contextualization of the source.	Explains the controversy and how this article fits into it.	Doesn't connect this article to the larger controversy or explain when the article was published.
5 POINTS	Explanation of research methods.	Describes where the source was found and what keywords/ databases you used to find it.	No discussion of how you found your article.
5 POINTS	Source documentation.	Marks the opinions of others through quotations and weaves quotes into sentences.	Either no quotations or too many quotations.
5 POINTS	Objectivity.	Presents and attributes opinions of the author without inserting your own opinions.	Expresses opinion or makes it impossible to tell if the opinions presented are the author's or your own.
5 POINTS	Spelling, grammar, and MLA citation	Few spelling mistakes; polished grammar. Uses MLA citation.	Frequent errors and aggressively sloppy grammar.