



## Summarizing

What is summarizing?

- Putting the main idea into your own words
- Succinct, brief
- Overview rather than detail

Why summarize?

- To support our claims
- To demonstrate understanding of the source material
- To articulate different perspectives
- To provide an overview rather than detail

When do you summarize?

- When you want to use the ideas of others
- When you want a brief synopsis of the source material
- When you need evidence to support your claim

How do you summarize?

1. Read and understand the original passage
2. Identify the main point(s) of the source
3. In a few sentences, recount the gist of the material
4. Check that your version accurately represents the original
5. Record your source including page number

Sample

In the rugged Rocky Mountain foothills of southern Alberta and the remote interior of central B.C., a once hardy and abundant band of wild horses now faces an uncertain future. Their ancient ancestors once roamed the Canadian plains, sharing the terrain with the giant woolly mammoth. But the North American horse was eventually driven to extinction. Eleven thousand years later, Spanish conquistadors returned the horses to the West, where they re-settled into their original range. By the end of the 19th century, 50,000 grazed Alberta and B.C.'s grasslands, but now, only a few hundred wander the forested foothills. With their territory being scarred by clear-cuts and crisscrossed by pipelines, and their very existence being challenged by some who see them as rogue trespassers, many are worried the wild mustangs may once again become extinct.

[http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/tv/videos/video\\_description.asp?showNumber=23035](http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/tv/videos/video_description.asp?showNumber=23035)

1. **Read passage**
2. **Main points:** wild horses, became extinct, reintroduced, at peril again
3. **Summary:**

In ancient times wild horses roamed B.C. and Alberta. They became extinct but were reintroduced and thrived. Now, they are threatened again.

Now you try: <http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/tv/videos/>

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