



### What is a Summary Paragraph?

- A summary is a short retelling of what happened in a story
- It is usually between four and seven sentences
- It has a topic sentence that sums up the text in one statement
- The body retells the text, or an event, in the same order in which they occurred
- A summary only contains information that the reader would **need** to know to understand the story

### How Do I Write A Summary Paragraph?

1. **Pick out and highlight the key events in the text.** If using a narrative, you can use a plot graph to guide you.
2. Review the highlighted moments, or the moments identified on a plot graph, and **narrow them down to only the most important. Write these most important moments down in a graphic organizer.** Remember these are the moments in the text that are essential to the most basic retelling of the story.
3. Review the graphic organizer to **determine the main idea** of the text.
4. Identify this main idea in **your topic sentence** along with the name of the text and the author's name.
5. **In the body**, re-tell the key events in chronological order (the order in which they occurred) using proper sentence structure. You may choose to use transition words, phrases or sentences to connect each sentence.
6. **Write a conclusion** which reminds your reader of the main idea within the text and brings closure to your paragraph.

### Sample Summary Paragraph For “The Dinner Party”

In the story “The Dinner Party”, written by Mona Gardner, a woman proves that women should not be stereotyped as being highly emotional. The story begins at a dinner party held by a colonial official and his wife. At the party, a colonel argues that women cannot remain calm in a crisis. During the argument, an American man notices the hostess calmly call to a serving boy, who leaves the room and returns with a bowl of milk for a concealed cobra. The American creates a game to keep everyone calm until the cobra exits, and then he asks the hostess how she knew the cobra was in the room. Her reply, that it crawled over her foot, proves that women have as much control as men. The hostess's actions prove that not all women are highly emotional.