

RESEARCH PAPER



"VAH Sample Question Library"

Assessment Description

The first piece of continuous assessment for the course tests your ability to effectively summarise a journal article on a sociological topic. The article you need to summarise is listed below. Using your own words, summarise the main arguments of this text in a clear and concise manner. Avoid directly quoting from the text unless you are referring to key terms or important ideas. Direct quotes from the text should be kept to a minimum and used only where necessary. The word limit for this assessment is 800 words, with a 10% allowance of going over or under.

The summary should be structured in the following manner:

A brief introduction that highlights the:

topic as well as author's details

author's thesis statement or the main message

A body section that comprises:

the main points raised by the author

evidence of how the main points and the thesis statement is supported by the author

A conclusion that addresses:

how the main points work together to support the thesis statement

how the author explains the significance or implications of their arguments

Aims

This assessment has been designed to develop your ability to read and understand a sociological text. It will also develop your ability to communicate in writing, your understanding of a sociological argument. These skills are critical for you to learn because they are integral in the production of sociological forms of knowledge. Sociological research partly depends on people's ability to accurately express the theories and findings of other scholars in a clear and concise form. The rest of the assessment tasks for this course all have a summarising component, in which you would be expected to be proficient.

By completing this assessment, you would be able to:

CO1: Summarize sociological theories covered in this course

Criteria

There are two key assessment criteria for the summary assessment: (1) content accuracy and (2) writing style.

1. Content accuracy refers to the degree to which you adequately captured the main points of the text that you summarised.
2. Writing style refers to the extent to which you communicated your understanding of the text in a clear and concise fashion.

Instructions

1. Before you begin writing your summary, access and read the two sources listed under 'Advice and Resources' below. They will help you understand what summarising involves and how to read an article that you are being asked to summarise.
2. Read the set article once to obtain a general understanding of what it is about.
3. Then reread the article to identify the main points the author is making. You may need to underline or highlight these as you proceed through the article. You can also use the margin in the article to restate what the main points are in your own words. Keep this brief.
4. Distinguish the main points from examples. You generally do not need to include examples in your summary unless they are important to your discussion.
5. Look at the points that you have underlined/highlighted/written in your own words and write your summary.
6. Remember not to copy extensively from the text.

7. Submit your completed Summary via the submission link below. The submission must be a .doc or .docx file.

Advice and Resources

There are two resources to consult before you begin the assignment. First, is the 'Writing a Summary' video. This short 7 minute presentation summarises how to write summaries. It contains a number of useful tips which will help you with this assessment. This video was written for a different assignment so ignore details about the specific reading and word count. The second resource to consult is Mary Erdman's chapter on 'How to read sociological texts':

"To be used for Academic Reference Only"