

Summarizing

1. An effective summary should...

- be concise, focus on main ideas, address the 5Ws, avoid repetition, and be objective.
- be concise, include quotes from the text, address the 5Ws, avoid repetition, and give recommendations.
- be concise, include small details, address the 5Ws, avoid repetition, and give your opinion.
- be concise, focus on main ideas, avoid the 5Ws, avoid repetition, and be objective.

2. Which of these one-sentence summaries is the most effective and why?

- "Esperanza is a young Chicana girl who lives in Chicago, and I think she tells important stories about her community." It is concise and objective.
- "Esperanza is a young Chicana girl who lives in Chicago, and I think she tells important stories about her community." It answers the 5Ws and is concise.
- "The House on Mango Street is about Esperanza and tells the stories of her community while she grows up." It has small details like the book title.
- "The House on Mango Street is about Esperanza and tells the stories of her community while she grows up." It focuses on main ideas and is objective.

3. Which of the following is a characteristic of a concise summary?

- Incorporating vivid details
- Including only the essential information
- Always being less than a page long
- Including personal opinions

4. What does it mean to be objective in a summary?

- To recommend a solution to a problem
- To include your feelings about the topic
- To report only the facts and what happens
- To say if the author was right or wrong

5. Which sentence would you remove to most significantly improve Justin's summary and why?

¹ Find it fascinating to explore the unique blend of languages and cultures that Chicano writers bring to their work. Chicano literature is writing by Mexican Americans who live in the United States.

Chicano literature can be poems, stories, or memoirs. Many Chicano writers use both Spanish and English in their writing. As a reader, I am moved by the honesty and bravery of these writers in sharing their stories and perspectives.

Chicano literature talks about things like being treated unfairly, being poor, and not having equal opportunities. It also celebrates the special culture of Mexican Americans. Some important Chicano writers are Sandra Cisneros, Rudolfo Anaya, and Gloria Anzaldúa. Their works include *The House on Mango Street*; *Bless Me, Ultima*; and *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*.

Overall, I believe that Chicano literature is an important and valuable contribution to American literature. It helps people understand more about Mexican American culture and how it has influenced American literature.²

- "Some important Chicano writers are Sandra Cisneros, Rudolfo Anaya, and Gloria Anzaldúa." This is repetitive because Justin already brought up the writers.
- "Chicano literature is writing by Mexican Americans who live in the United States." This sentence is repetitive because it doesn't tell us new information.
- "Chicano literature can be poems, stories, or memoirs." This is a small detail that doesn't belong in a summary.
- "Their works include *The House on Mango Street*; *Bless Me, Ultima*; and *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*." These are smaller details that don't belong in a summary.

6. You are writing a summary of this painting. Which of these sentences would you exclude to most improve your summary and why?



- "The rabbit seems to have a suspicious look in his eye, like he knows the bear is going to do something." This sentence makes a guess and is not objective.
- "The bear stands on two legs in the background, facing away from the front of the painting." This sentence includes very small details.
- "The rabbit looks in the direction of the person viewing the painting." This is a very small detail that we don't need to include.
- "The forest is mostly composed of trees whose leaves have turned yellow, orange, and brown." This sentence adds details that are not in the painting.

7. What is the main purpose of a summary?

- To report only the minor details
- To provide personal opinions
- To repeat information from the original source
- To focus on the big picture

8. Justin asked for your help with his summary for his Literature class. What is the MOST helpful piece of advice could you give him?

"I find it fascinating to explore the unique blend of languages and cultures that Chicano writers bring to their work. Chicano literature is writing by Mexican Americans who live in the United States.

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- You should revise your work to make it shorter.
- You should double check that you answered the 5Ws.
- You should include more examples of authors and their works.
- You should revise your work to stay objective.

9. For which of the following scenarios would summarizing be most helpful?

- Taking notes during a class about Chicano Literature
- Creating a script for a 30-minute cooking show
- Sitting down to write a chapter in your new novel
- Arguing with your friend about why the Mona Lisa is the greatest painting

10. Which sentence could you add to improve Justin's summary and why?

"I find it fascinating to explore the unique blend of languages and cultures that Chicano writers bring to their work. Chicano literature is writing by Mexican Americans who live in the United States.

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- "Sandra Cisneros was born in Chicago, Illinois." This answers the "Where"
- "I think their writing is special because it mixes two cultures and languages." This answers the "Why"
- "House on Mango Street is about a girl named Esperanza." This answers the "Who"
- "Chicano literature started during the 1960s and 1970s." This answers the "When"