

Day 22: Summarizing and quoting review

Summarizing: Example 1

In class, Austin gave a list of do's and don'ts to keep in mind when writing Paper 4. He reminded us how to write a good summary. First, he gave examples of summaries that didn't work well and analyzed them. Then, he gave some tips about how to avoid common problems when summarizing. "Avoid hit-and-run quotes." Finally, he explained why it's "important that we don't forget how to summarize effectively in the future."

Do's and don'ts for summarizing and quoting

- Tell me what the author says, not what he/she talks about
- Begin by paraphrasing the main idea
- Don't write "hit and run quotes."
- Choose good quotes. Don't quote things that could just as easily be paraphrased.
- Define unfamiliar terms
- Write sentences and paragraphs that connect to each other. Create a feeling of "flow."

Summarizing: Example 2

Lin (1962), on the contrary, believes that Chinese people are individualists with family mind instead of social mind. He takes Chinese game mahjong and Chinese organization of newspaper for example. For mahjong, players play individually, and for newspaper, editors of different sections also work individually like players at the mahjong table. He then argues that Chinese young people seldom get involved in social movement or public affairs because they are taught not to "meddling with other people's business" (p. 180). Chinese people care about family interest more than social benefits and people who sacrifice themselves for others or society are considered admirable yet not encouraged in family.