# Summary

# What is a summary?

A summary is a brief overview of a larger work. Summarization can be applied to any genre, whether it be something read or something seen. The goal of a summary is to provide a brief overview of the entire piece and to include key information by answering, “Who did what, where, and when?” “Why and how” information should only be included in the summary if it is present; a summary should not include anything outside of the original piece.

# Guidelines:

* Read (or observe) the original piece with precision by taking notes.
* Begin summary by stating the name of the author or creator and the full title.
* Try and figure out what the goal or purpose of the piece is to identify the important elements. Recap those elements in the summary.
* Try to maintain the original tone of the piece; however, if the original piece is informal, it is okay to be more formal in the summary.
* Use original words and different sentence structures to avoid plagiarism. Summaries do not include quotes.
* Do not add too many details. Only cover the major ideas or events a reader needs to know to understand the larger work.
* Only include information that is present. Do not include opinions or examples that were not in the original piece.

**The following is an example summary of the movie *The Lion King*.**

Disney’s *The Lion King* is a movie about a young lion who grew up to become a king. It tells the story of a young cub named Simba and his journey to fill his father’s place as ruler of the pride lands. Simba’s jealous uncle, Scar, wants the kingdom for himself and devises a plan to successfully kill Simba’s father, King Mufasa, before Simba is old enough to take his rightful place. Scar then forces Simba to flee by suggesting the death was Simba’s fault. Exiled from his home, Simba meets some friends who teach him not to worry so much and help him to grow up. When Simba is full-grown, a family friend comes looking for him and convinces Simba to return to defeat the tyrant ruler, Scar. With Simba’s new friends and new-found knowledge, he finds he can overcome his past, avenge his father, and assume his place as rightful King.

# Analysis

# What is an analysis?

An analysis is an explanation (not a summary) of a text or visual piece and can be applied to any genre of art or literature. The goal of analysis is to examine a work, commenting on structure, tone, language, and other elements utilized by the author (or creator). It involves a personal interpretation, textual proof, and outside examples not originally found in the piece. Unlike summary, analysis works to answer the question “why” a work is interpreted the way it is, and it will often include information outside of the original piece.

# Guidelines:

* Read (or observe) the original piece with precision by taking notes.
* Begin analysis with a controlling idea based on the interpretation of a work.
* Comment on the author’s use of language, tone, structure, etc.
* Indicate an opinion of the author’s purpose for using these elements.
* Connect ideas with outside examples to prove the interpretation of the work’s purpose.
* Maintain a formal tone when analyzing.
* Use quotes or descriptions from the work to point out what is specifically being analyzed.
* Provide a thorough explanation of your interpretation.
* You can include outside information to help support an interpretation of a work.

**The following is an example analysis of the movie *The Lion King*.**

Growing up is a difficult process and often requires a certain level of failure. In *The Lion King*, Simba makes a mistake at an attempt to be brave that nearly costs lives. Once he learns of the kingship he will inherit, he becomes reckless and disobeys his father by bringing Nala to the elephant graveyard, and both are almost killed by a pack of hyenas. Mufasa, Simba’s father, criticizes Simba’s reckless attempt at bravery: “Being brave doesn’t mean you go looking for trouble” (*The Lion King*). By saying this, Mufasa is trying to teach his son a lesson about growing up to be a proper king because he failed to understand what bravery requires. Though being chastised for his failure hurt Simba emotionally, this lesson was successful because Simba never looks for trouble to show off his bravery again. Anyone who grows, even a future king like Simba, must experience failure early on to construct an understanding of the world; therefore, people learn and grow from their experience to avoid later mistakes that could be costly.