

# Summary Versus Analysis

No. 13 in the Writing Center Handout Series

*When writing a paper, it is important to understand the difference between summary and analysis. Summary is a brief, objective restatement of the main points of a text. Analysis, on the other hand, involves interpreting the text, identifying the author's purpose, and evaluating the evidence. This handout provides a clear explanation of these two writing techniques and offers practical examples to help you master them.*

*The first step in writing a summary is to read the text carefully and identify the main ideas. Next, you should paraphrase these ideas in your own words, using a clear and concise style. Analysis, however, requires you to go beyond the surface level of the text. You should ask questions about the author's choices, the text's structure, and the evidence used to support the author's claims. This process of critical thinking is essential for developing a strong argument in your paper.*