Responding to a News Commentary



- **Pre-writing questions >> the in-call message (5 minutes)**
  - When would you need to summarize the text? If so, how?
  - What is your experience with responding to an article? When are you likely to need to make a response?

- **Learning to write a summary-and-response essay**
  - Read a news article.
  - Summarize the article.
  - Respond to the article.

The New York Times

Opinion | THE PRIVACY PROJECT

Facebook Is Stealing Your Family's Joy

Before you post that baby bump or college acceptance letter online, remember how much fun it used to be to share in person.

By KJ Dell'Antonia

Ms. Dell'Antonia is a novelist who writes frequently about parenthood.

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- **Writing a summary (week 1)**

- Read the articles on techniques for summarizing a text.
    1. Read Writing the Summary-and-Response Essay: pp. 448-450.
    2. Read the summary guidelines. (supplementary material: Summary Writing Infographic)
    3. Read Writing a Summary (Oxford Writing Tutor)
- Practice summarizing the article, "Facebook Is Stealing Your Family's Joy" by KJ Dell'Antonia. (PDF) >> the worksheets
    1. Read the article carefully and highlight the main ideas. (10 mins)
    2. Then copy and paste the sentences that describe the main points. Put your highlights in order of logical reasoning. (3 mins)
    3. Share them with us. (2 students; 5 mins)
    4. Paraphrase the main-idea sentences using the following strategies: (1) using synonyms or rephrasing words, (2) introducing new terms, (3) combining sentences, and (4) changing the part of speech. Write your summary. (15 minutes)
    5. Share your summary with us. (3 students; 10 mins)

- **Writing a response (week 2)**
    - Read the PDF article: pp. 450-453.
        i. "Present a smooth transition to your thesis and consider using an "**essay map**" to indicate to your readers the points you will discuss." (p. 450)
        ii. "In each of your own body paragraphs make clear which of the author's claims or ideas you are refuting or supporting by using "**tag lines**" to remind the reader." (p. 450)
        iii. "Don't forget to write a brief concluding paragraph. If appropriate, you might **emphasize the value of the article**

in question, or **call for action for or against its ideas,** or project its **effects into the future**." (p.451)

- Learn how to write an opinion essay: British Council Learn English. Be aware of how to use language properly, e.g. *One justification for ...*, *The first thing to consider is ... , A further reason ... , In conclusion ...*
- Task: Let's review one student essay. >> the worksheets

- **Assignment**
  - Read "Facebook Is Stealing Your Family's Joy" by KJ Dell'Antonia. (PDF)
  - After reading this article, write an essay to show your agreement or disagreement on Dell'Antonia's opinions.