

ENGL 1100  
Composition I  
Dr. Adam Abraham  
Spring 2020

ESSAY NO. 1  
SUMMARY

Rough draft DUE: Tuesday 11 February  
Hard copy only. Bring to class.

Final draft DUE: Friday 14 February by 4:30 pm  
Email to asa0047@auburn.edu  
In the subject line write "SUMMARY"

CHOOSE: "Goodbye to All That" OR "Some Dreamers of the Golden Dream"

For the first essay this semester, each student will produce a summary of ONE of these two pieces by Joan Didion. Summarization is a skill used in many fields, including law, medicine, journalism, and the natural sciences. The ability to summarize a text with clarity and confidence is a valuable one, and the next essays that you write this semester will build on this skill.

In the opening of your essay, be sure to state the title of your chosen piece, the full name of the author (Joan Didion), and some information about when it was published.

What is the main argument or point of the piece that you chose? How does the writer go about making this argument or point? What is the author's purpose in writing this piece? You should think about what a text *says* and what a text *does*.

The key: SAY WHAT THE AUTHOR IS SAYING ... but in your own words. Occasionally, you may want to quote directly from the piece. But the bulk of the summary should be your own writing.

Here is what you should NOT do: Do not give your opinion. Do not judge the piece. Do not write a review. Avoiding the phrases "I think," "I like," "I don't like."

## REQUIREMENTS

- Use 8 1/2 by 11 inch white paper.
- Print on ONE SIDE of the page only. NOT double-sided.
- Use a normal, 12-point font, with serifs, such as Times or Times New Roman.
- Double-space EVERY LINE. Double-space is not single-space or space-and-one-half.  
In Microsoft Word, you should select “2.0.”
- Follow the conventions of edited American English. When in doubt, consult *The Chicago Manual of Style*. There is no better book on the subject of English language usage.
- Maximum length = 1,000 words.

## GRADING

Essay no. 1 is worth 10 points, which is 10 percent of your final grade. To earn 10 out of 10 points on the essay, you should ...

- meet both deadlines, listed on the first page.
- submit in the correct format (hard copy or email) as specified.
- participate in a peer-review session on Tuesday 11 February.
- follow the instructions on this assignment sheet.
- show through the writing that time and effort were committed.
- produce work that is clear and meaningful.
- demonstrate interest in the topic (make us think you care).

If you want more guidance, feel free to visit during office hours or set an appointment.