

ENGL 1100
Composition I
Dr. Adam Abraham
Fall 2020

ESSAY NO. 1
SUMMARY

Rough draft DUE: Thursday 17 September
In class at 9:30 am

Final draft DUE: Friday 25 September by 4:30 pm
Email to asa0047@auburn.edu
In the subject line write "SUMMARY"

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

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 your first paragraph, be sure to state the full name of the author (Joan Didion), the title of the essay that you chose, 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 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.
- Prepare to share the rough draft via screen sharing and email.
- Submit the final draft as an attachment. Use Microsoft Word or pdf form. (There are compatibility issues with Google Docs.)
- 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 ...

- follow all instructions on this assignment sheet.
- meet both deadlines, listed on the first page.
- submit in the correct format, as specified on this page.
- participate in a peer-review session on Thursday 17 September (worth 5 points).
- 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, write an email to set an appointment.