

## **Advanced Video and Article Review**

Obtain from your teacher a video or article that relates to your topic/question.

The purpose of a review is to provide an informed analysis. The review should describe the item's content and argument(s) and discuss its strengths and weaknesses. A person who has not read (or seen) the item should have a solid understanding of what it is about by reading your review.

Below are the steps you should follow when writing your review.

### **READ WITH THE ITEM'S PURPOSE IN MIND**

- Read/watch the item carefully, making notes about the purpose/thesis of what is trying to be conveyed.
- Once you have gone through the item look at it again and ask yourself if your view is slanted toward one of the minor points. If it is, adjust your notes so that it is slanted toward the major point.

### **REVIEW WITH SUMMARIZING IN MIND**

- Once you clearly understand the major point (or purpose) for writing, view the item again. This time write down the major points supporting the thesis; these should be words or phrases here and there rather than complete sentences.

### **WRITING YOUR SUMMARY**

- Now begin writing your summary. Start with a sentence naming the writer/producer and article/video title and stating the item's main idea.
- Discussion of the main point which reports on the main purpose and overall argument.
- When writing your summary, omit nothing important and striving for overall coherence through appropriate transitions.
- Be concise.
- A critique which uses your knowledge of the field to evaluate the quality of the item (i.e., its strengths and weaknesses).
- Conclude with a final statement reflecting the significance/importance of the message -- not from your own point of view but from the writer's.

### **REVISING YOUR SUMMARY**

- After you've completed a draft, read your summary and check for accuracy.
  - Does your summary make the same point as the article?
  - Have you omitted anything important?
  - Does your summary read smoothly with all parts clearly related?
- Keep in mind that a summary should generally be no more than one-fourth the length of the original. If your summary is too long, cut out words rather than ideas. Then look for non-essential information and delete it.
- Adjust the draft and ask someone to read it critically.
  - Can that person understand the sense of the article by reading your summary?
  - Ask for criticism; then weigh these criticisms and make valid changes.

### **EDITING YOUR SUMMARY**

- Create a good draft, use spellchecker, correct grammar and punctuation errors, looking particularly for those common in your writing.