

EFFECTIVE ASSIGNMENT SEQUENCING FOR SCAFFOLDING LEARNING SUPPLEMENT 2: RESEARCH LOG & SUMMARY WORKSHEET

For each Source:

- After opening this worksheet, go to the “File” menu above and select “Save As.”
- In the box that opens with the file name, change the name to reflect the name of the source you’re summarizing. (For example, if you were summarizing our course syllabus, you might name it “COURSENAME Syllabus TERM.”)
- Complete the worksheet that begins on the second page below and click “save.”

Specifics: Offer a concise but thorough summary (roughly ½-1 page, double-spaced) of what the source is arguing. Stay as close to the text as possible, quoting the author’s exact words at times to tie both you and your readers to the original text itself—cite page numbers for any quotations in parentheses after the quote (*just the page numbers*).

Your aim is to hand over to your readers your understanding of WHAT this text is arguing. Phrases such as “Smith says/notes/states,” or “according to Bell,” etc. will help you designate what is called intellectual property. You will not have room to cover all the points an author makes, so you will need to synthesize the information for us, tell us what position the author is advocating and then offer quotes from the text to demonstrate (to *show us*) that the author is arguing what you say s/he’s arguing.

In this first part of the research summary (probably a good 2/3 of it), do not offer your own comments, opinions, or arguments about what the text says, and do not offer any analysis of the writing. Stick to content: *What* is the author saying in this text? *What* position is s/he advocating? What major evidence does s/he offer in support of their argument? (In other words HOW and WHY are they making this argument?)

In the last 3rd of the research summary, analyze the source & comment on how it will contribute to your project by thinking about questions such as:

- What light does it shed on your research question?
- Where on the spectrum of responses to your research question does this source fall? How does it compare with others?
- Is this background/context material?
- Is this theoretical/analytical material?
- Is this a model (of argument, use of evidence, language, etc.)?

For each summary, complete the log at the top of the page *before* you write the summary. The purpose of the log is pre-writing—it’ll help you identify the main points before you launch into summarizing.

Log & Summary

Name of Resource (example: Academic Search Premier or Google Scholar):

Search terms used (example: piracy AND music):

Citation of Source (example: *The New York Times* or *The I-Search Paper*) in MLA style:

Pre-Writing:

1. Who is the author of this piece? Is the author credible? What are their credentials? (In other words, how do you know they're credible?)
2. For what organization, company, etc. is the author writing? Is this journal, newspaper, etc. credible? At what type of audience is this aimed? How do you know?
3. What is the main claim (argument/purpose) of this piece?
4. What are the key concepts (if any) that the piece defines, and how?

Research Summary: