

Summaries provide a brief overview of a piece of writing by reducing it to its main points.

Instructions:

- Step 1:** Read the article carefully at least twice.
Check the meanings of any unfamiliar words.
You should now have an idea of the author's position and the arguments used for support.
- Step 2:** Reread the material and write down the main points.
Each paragraph usually contains one main point, often found in the topic sentence.
Do not copy from the article. Put the main ideas into your own words.
- Step 3:** Now that you have listed the main points, reread them and write a thesis statement (a statement that summarizes the purpose or message of the article).
- Step 4:** Once you have written the thesis statement, go back over your main points and cross out any that are repetitive or unnecessary.
- Step 5:** Write the summary, beginning with your thesis statement. Organize your sentences into paragraphs. Be sure to use transitions to help your reader understand the sequence of ideas.
- Step 6:** Proofread your summary for errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling.

Sample Article and Summary	
<p data-bbox="261 417 727 485" style="text-align: center;">Childhood: A Historical Overview By Bob Smith</p> <p data-bbox="358 562 630 596" style="text-align: center;">Paragraphs 1 and 2</p> <p data-bbox="188 600 800 995">In our world today, children are important people, who are considered to be very different from adults in their needs, interests and abilities. Parents can buy many articles specifically designed for children; they can consult doctors who have specialized in the field of child care; they can eat in restaurants which provide special children’s menus; they can take them to entertainments specifically designed for children at particular developmental stages.</p> <p data-bbox="188 999 800 1583">This has not always been so. Until the seventeenth century, children were generally considered to be immature adults. Childhood was seen as a pre-adult period that should be used to prepare children for the “real” world of adulthood. Children wore clothing that was a miniature model of that worn by their parents. Their games prepared them for adult roles; the girls learned cooking, sewing and social graces, while the boys played competitive and often physically violent games. Many of the games children enjoy so much today were then played by the whole family. Stories such as fairy tales and legends, which are presently considered to be children’s literature, were originally meant to amuse adults.</p> <p data-bbox="407 1623 581 1656" style="text-align: center;">Paragraph 3</p> <p data-bbox="188 1661 800 1873">During the seventeenth century a new attitude towards children developed, probably because of the strong religious revival in Europe and the New World. The child became a special person, an innocent, who needed to be spared from adult problems. Moral and</p>	<p data-bbox="1060 422 1195 455" style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p data-bbox="824 495 1430 638">In the article “Childhood: A Historical Overview,” Bob Smith examines the evolution of attitudes towards children from the seventeenth century until present.</p> <p data-bbox="824 789 1430 1113">Today children are believed to be different from adults in their interests, needs and abilities. For these reasons, books, toys and games are designed especially for children. This wasn’t always so, and up to the 17th century, children were seen as immature adults. Childhood was meant to prepare children for adulthood; therefore, they were required to do adult things.</p>

spiritual instructions were principal educational goals. The child must be helped or guided; thus literature for young children became highly moralistic. Its purpose was to help them to become virtuous, God-fearing adults. Thus, in 1671-72, James Janeway wrote, “A Token for Children – being an exact account of the Conversion, Holy and Exemplary Lives, and Joyful Deaths of several Young Children.” In the same century, New England boys and girls learned their alphabet by memorizing rhymes like the following:

a) “In Adam’s fall
We sinned all”

b) “Thy life to mend
God’s Bock attend”
New England Primer, 1961.

Paragraphs 4 and 5

It was not until the nineteenth century that the uniqueness of childhood was generally recognized. Popular writings of these times portrayed children as precious and fragile. The mother, enshrined in a concept of maternal purity, protected children from the ugly world of men. The times were ready to receive Darwin’s vision of man in which he portrayed children as the key to the ongoing development of man.

During the Victorian period parents became more directly involved in raising their children. Though their chief concern was still that of inculcating specific “virtues” such as strength of character, body and mind, they did provide books and activities which were simply to be enjoyed. Many of the classic books of this period are still read for sheer enjoyment today.

Paragraph 6

Many types of child rearing practices can be found in North American families

During the 17th century, a new attitude, linked to the revival of religion, developed. Children were seen as innocents who needed to be protected from adult problems. Emphasis was placed on their spiritual and moral development.

During the 19th century, childhood was generally believed to be a unique period of life. The theories of Darwin emphasized children as the key to the development of man. At the end of the 19th century, in the Victorian era, parents became more involved in child rearing, and a new emphasis on enjoyment of childhood emerged.

<p>today. On the whole, children are still considered to be in need of continuous training and guidance towards adulthood. Families in which children are abused still exist. Other families are raising children according to the newly developing proposition that the child knows better than the parents what he or she needs at each stage of his or her life. Child rearing practices have a tremendous impact on our society. William Kersen suggests that instead of asking “Have you hugged your child today?,” it would be more enlightening to ask “Have you thought what your child will be like when he’s 40 years old?”</p>	<p>In North America today, child-rearing practices vary greatly, but in general, children are seen as needing guidance to become capable adults. Since the child rearing practices greatly influence our society, William Kersen suggests that parents should ask themselves what their children will be like when they become adults.</p>
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Instructions: Summarize the following article using the previous steps.

Last call at 2 a.m. is fine for most drinkers
Monday, August 26, 2002
Neil Dietrich

Upon hearing the news that the provincial government was contemplating pushing back last call to 4 a.m. at bars and restaurants, I concluded that the hot August weather had got the better of our "common sense" Tories.

What befuddles me is that last call, as it stands now, is totally adequate to fulfil the needs of the consumer. With liquor and beer stores open seven days a week, and most restaurants and bars serving an outrageous 15 hours a day, one would think that the opportunity to enjoy a beverage would be more than sufficient.

Having worked as a bartender for more than three years now, I can say with experience that by 2 a.m. one of two things is typical: people are either at a dance bar using another drug to enhance their evening or trying, often rather obnoxiously, to convince the staff that they need one more shot of José Cuervo. Extending last call would only turn liquor establishments into a cross between a boxing ring and a daycare centre for adults.

The repercussions of such an initiative would totally outweigh any possible gain. Impaired driving rates would increase, as would infractions under the Liquor Licence Act. Employee burnout will become more prevalent in pubs and restaurants, and deaths on the highways would increase from the 1,350 we experience every year as reported by Transport Canada.

This doesn't even begin to assess the cost to taxpayers for all the extra overtime police, emergency medical technicians, firefighters, nurses and physicians would be putting in. And the list goes on.

Many people who work in the restaurant and bar industry already put in long hours in order to get by. Some would argue that if they don't like the long hours, they should quit, but it's not that simple. Many servers and bartenders have been financially aided by tips they receive working night in and

night out (to pay off their post-secondary education) because the wage, \$5.95 an hour, just doesn't cut it.

Without those jobs, numerous students would not be able to afford an already expensive higher education, making quitting not much of an option. Imagine those lucky students who would get to close a bar at the proposed 4 a.m., do a thorough cleanup and leave at 5:30 a.m. just in time for the sun to come up. That is, of course, if they don't have an 8 a.m. biology lab. It's an old saying, but if it's not broke, why is Queen's Park trying to fix it? To put Ontario "in line" with other provinces such as B.C. is the response often barked. I suppose both provinces will hold hands as they jump off the proverbial cliff together. Perhaps Energy Minister Chris Stockwell and his infamous clan of drinking MPPs are behind all this in an attempt to put one more round on the Ontario taxpayers' tab.