

English 100

Summary

Purpose: This assignment is designed to assess how well you can critically read an article and then put into your own words the author's thesis and main supporting points. It is both a reading and writing assignment in that you need to be able to understand the essay and determine its main points, but then you also need to be able to communicate those in writing to a reader.

Assignment: Read Parrillo's essay on pg. 504 of Rereading America. Then write a two paragraph objective summary of that reading. In your summary, include the following:

- Your first paragraph should provide the author's name and/or the title of the text, the primary thesis or purpose statement of the whole article, and author's primary supporting points in the first section (psychology).
- Your second paragraph should provide a summary of the primary supporting points in the second section (sociology).
- The entire summary should be no longer than 1-1 ½ pages in length (typed, double spaced) but should capture all of the primary ideas in the essay. It should also be edited.

Grading Criteria: Your summary will be assessed upon the following criteria.

- **Brief:** Does your summary convey the essential information concisely? (Focus on just primary points. If you include sub points, examples, or too much detail, you will lose points here.)
- **Accurate:** Does your summary restate the author, title, and thesis accurately in the first sentence? Does your summary accurately capture all of the primary supporting points in the article? Does your summary accurately restate the relationship between the thesis and supporting points in the article?
- **Comprehensive:** Does your summary convey all important and essential information from the article you summarized?
- **Neutral:** Does your summary avoid personal opinion, belief or judgment? Does it seek to be as objective as possible?
- **Independent:** Does your summary attribute the ideas to the author? Does your summary define all key terms so the content makes sense to someone who has never read or seen the article?
- **Editing/Clarity:** Does the summary is edited so it makes clear the meaning of the ideas in the article?

First Draft: Bring 2 copies for peer review on Monday, Feb. 11

Draft for Instructor Comment: Tuesday, Feb. 12

Final Draft: Due with portfolio