

# Summary or Analysis?

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How to tell the  
difference...

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# Comparison

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## Summary

- Presents main points
- Identifies what is stated
- Identifies thoughts on a topic
- Lacks argumentation or persuasive qualities

## Analysis

- Breaks apart main ideas to assess or interpret
- Discusses connections
- May examine
  - causes & effects
  - Strengths & weaknesses
  - Effectiveness & ineffectiveness

# Example writing prompts

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## Summary

- Outline the quarantining procedures in the school.
- Describe the Mint Museum's collection of artwork from the Paleolithic period.
- Describe the movie plot of *The Avengers*.

## Analysis

- Critique the problems of the quarantining/masking procedures used in the county.
- Identify the cultural elements found in one of the Mint Museum's artifacts.
- Discuss the impact of the father-daughter relationship in *The Avengers: Infinity War* as it pertains to Thanos and Gamora.

# Analysis

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- Select the elements you will discuss related to your topic.
- Describe elements so readers have the information needed to understand your conclusions.
- Explain the how and why related to your topic.
- Establish a clear conclusion based on the elements you analyzed.
- [UAGC Writing Center: Summary vs. Analysis](#)

# Examples

A summary **tells** while  
analysis **shows**...

## Example Summary of the Wright Brother's Aeroplane Company Museum

No argument or conclusion present

The Wright Brothers' Aeroplane Company Museum is a lively aviation museum full of images of early planes and the history of the Wright Brothers. The museum is a virtual museum, existing solely online. Visitors to the museum can read how the Wright Brothers began as bicycle repairmen before becoming interested in building an airplane. Visitors can also get blueprints and instructions to build their own rubber-band powered model Wright flyer (Wright Brothers Aeroplane Company, 2015). The museum is a great resource for learning not just about the Wright Brothers themselves, but also about the history of flight, and understanding how flight is accomplished.

States what was included

Identifies the main points

## Example Analysis of the Wright Brother's Aeroplane Company Museum

Makes an argument or reaches a conclusion.

The Wright Brothers' Aeroplane Company museum of pioneer aviation is an example of the re-telling of history that uses an ideology to create a public American identity that can influence behaviors. By focusing on work ethic and character for realizing dreams, the museum uses the American Dream ideology. The ideology promotes the belief that success can be achieved by anyone regardless of their circumstances, provided they display the behaviors of hard work, curiosity, determination, enthusiasm, and courage. The museum does this by replacing the story of that historical day at Kitty Hawk that the public is well aware of with the story of how it was the Wrights' character that led them to reaching their dream. The museum shows that the Wrights were not highly educated scientists or engineers and were only able to reach their goal of controlled flight because of their work ethic and character. The museum uses the words of "courage," "dedication," "enthusiasm," "discipline," "curiosity," and "gumption" when describing the Wrights' identities (Wright Brothers Aeroplane Company, 2015). By creating this identity of ordinary people who were able to achieve greatness because of character and will, the museum aims to impact visitors to the museum to adopt these same behaviors. If the museum is able to persuade visitors to buy into this ideology and exhibit these same behaviors themselves, this can work to create an overall productive society for America.

A specific element or area is chosen to study.

Examination and interpretation are done.