

Coming into the class I did not feel confident in my writing. I believed I would sound repetitive, or some things just did not make sense to me. As I have attended this class, I have learned so much. From Academic Summaries, rhetorical situations, self-assessments, email threads and much more. The self-assessments were easy for me since I just had to speak about myself and my major. What made that assignment difficult for me was having to write it for it to meet specific requirements like having to meet a 1000–1250-word count or even having to add an MLA citation page at the end, which was extremely new for me since I never did that in high school. Email threads were nice because the students that were assigned that email thread had to engage in the same email thread and add on about an article everyone read and give their opinion about the article and about what a student said in the same email thread. The one assignment that I struggled with the most but feel like I made the most improvement was the academic summaries. We first began summarizing “Steve lacy has a little fun with his broken hearts on Gemini Rights” by Austin Williams. When I first got this assignment introduced to me, I was lost because we didn’t have to summarize the paper but summarize what the author is saying about the paper. I was so used to summarizing articles and stories but hearing that I had to summarize what the author was saying sounded impossible to me. When I wrote and received feedback from my paper, I barely added any verbs to my paper, and verbs are crucial because that’s a straightforward way you can inform the reader the point the author is trying to make. For example, most of my sentences started off with “Williams made this strong claim because...” or “Williams begins his article with...” Even though these are verbs I didn’t really include many of them in my paper which wasn’t good enough. Our second academic summary was similar, but the only difference was writing about a different story. This one was about a mother who was pursuing the “American dream” but gave up after a while once she realized it wasn’t worth it. This paper was hard for me to write because the story didn’t grab my attention, but it was kind of interesting. What made it easier was the fact that I already had some experience writing an academic summary and I tried my best to go based off the feedback I was given from the first academic summary. I did do better than the first one, but it just wasn’t enough. I started using more verbs like “Niazi first speaks about...”, “This grab...”, “Niazi mentions...” and a lot more different ones. The third one felt like a breeze. I completed it in between thirty minutes to an hour. The reason I felt like it was easy was because I enjoyed the story, and I had a good grasp of what to do based off the other two academic summaries. I sat there, read the story, and wrote away. I made sure to include as many verbs as possible into every sense so that it was truly clear what the author was trying to portray in her writing. Another thing that helped me a lot with the essay was completing a bullet-Pointed academic summary sheet in which we wrote every piece of evidence the author had that supported her main argument in bullet point form, but it had to start with a verb. I’m currently still waiting for feedback on that one, but I am extremely confident in that writing considering the resources I had.

