

## Summary: Language Focus

Opening lines of summaries should state the author's first and last name, the name of the article / book, and the main idea(s) of the work.

In his 2002 article "Eden Updated," author James Kunstler **discusses** the evolution of the American suburb and **argues** that it has contributed to the degradation of a sense of community.

Using reporting verbs to reminding reader you are summarizing author's ideas, not stating your own.

Deborah Tannen **claims** that men and women approach conversations about problems differently.

Neutral	Interpretive
<b>Reporting verbs:</b> state, discuss, present, explain, express, indicate, observe, assert, believe, think, set forth	argue, contend, support, claim, maintain, point out, recommend, urge, suggest, advise, praise, laud, applaud, advocate, espouse, stress the importance of
<b>Reminder verbs :</b> adds, mention, goes on to say, further state, conclude	challenge, disagree with, dismiss, dispute, doubt, question, wonder, reject
<b>Verbs introducing examples:</b> cite, point to, give the example of	Neglect, overlook, leave out, omit, fails to mention, address

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21G.228 / 21G.227 Advanced Workshop in Writing for Social Sciences and Architecture (ELS)  
Spring 2007

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.