

How to Write a Summary – Methodentraining Teil 1 (Klasse 10–12)

Manuela Olde-Daalhuis, Düsseldorf

M 1 How to write a summary

Complete the rules of summary writing with the words given in the box.

*opinion sections shorter examples idea keywords present
anecdotes understanding title words essential*

Writing a good summary shows that you can clearly follow a text. Your summary should prove that you can share your _____ with your readers. It is very tempting to use too much information or even give your opinion. But a summary is a neutral account of all the _____ information in your own words. It should be much _____ than the original (quarter to a third).

Dos 😊

- Read the text carefully to find out the main _____ . Underline it.
- Divide the text into _____ . Give each section a heading which shows what that particular section deals with.
- Decide what your reader really needs to know. Ask yourself the questions **“Who? What? When? Where? Why?”** to write down _____ and to make notes.
- In the first sentence of your summary state the _____ , the name of the author, the source and the main idea of the text.
- Give the main points but leave out _____ or quotations.
- Use your own _____ as much as possible.
- Use the _____ tense.
- Change direct speech into indirect speech.

Don'ts 😞

- Don't give your _____ on the subject.
- Don't include any information that is not essential (e.g. examples, descriptive details, long quotations).
- Don't use figurative language (e.g. simile: “the driver was drunk as a lord”; exaggeration: “the children were so hungry they could have eaten a horse”; enumeration: “a horrible, terrifying, shocking moment”).
- Don't give _____ , locutions, general truths (e.g. “let me tell you of”, “as everyone knows”, “as the saying goes”).

M 2 Text: Fulfilling the Dream

06/14/2011

Fulfilling the Dream

Dirk Nowitzki Becomes the Ultimate German Star

By Charles Hawley / Spiegel Online

Basketball star Dirk Nowitzki has accomplished what no other German athlete has ever been able to: He is now a bona fide American hero. And he has made it popular to love a German. Timo Boll. Pascal Hens. Georg Hackl. It is a rare occurrence, but every so often in Germany, soccer stars do not grace the front pages of the nation's sports sections. And in recent years, whenever the "beautiful game" has been shunted aside, it has been for a rather odd menagerie of second-tier sports. Boll, for example, is a household name for his pingpong excellence. Hens excels in team handball. Hackl? Olympic luge. Martin Kaymer, who has made a splash in the US recently, is the next big thing in golf.

Germany's most recently crowned sports star, however, is different. Dubbed "Dirkules" by the gushing German media, Dirk Nowitzki – together with his Dallas Mavericks teammates – managed to become an NBA champion on Sunday evening in Miami after 10 straight fruitless trips to the playoffs. By vanquishing the detested Miami Heat – and their star, LeBron James, one of America's most hated figures in sports – Nowitzki became a bona fide American hero.

In doing so, Nowitzki arguably joined the pantheon of the best players ever to play the game – and certainly became the best European ever. Perhaps more importantly, Nowitzki, as an undisputed team leader in a US-dominated sport, which often values individual attitude and toughness over the collective, fulfilled a uniquely German sporting dream. He made it popular to love a German.

There have, of course, been other cuddly German sports stars. Both tennis greats Steffi Graf and Boris Becker had legions of admirers in their day. Formula One driver Michael Schumacher likewise had plenty of fans. And Detlef Schrempf paved Nowitzki's way to the NBA.

A Bit of Pride and Flag Waving

Nowitzki-mania, though, is different. He is the most recent example of a national awakening which began during the 2006 World Cup. It was an event that proved to the world – but more importantly, to the Germans themselves – that a bit of pride and flag-waving was acceptable. It showed that Germany, after decades of striving to remain in the background and to be the perfect European team player in atonement for its past, was ready to tentatively and constructively assert itself.



Dallas Mavericks player Dirk Nowitzki from Germany waves to the crowd on the stage inside American Airlines Center after the victory parade for the team in Dallas, Texas.

picture-alliance / dpa

Even better, whereas the German national football team has gained sympathy points for being young, precocious and an accurate reflection of Germany's multi-cultural diversity, Nowitzki did it by imposing his brand of German middle-class reserve and perfectionist preparation on a game full of egos.

"I just think this is a win for team basketball," Nowitzki said in a post-game interview. "It's a win for playing as a team on both ends of the floor, for sharing the ball, for passing the ball." [...]

Nowitzki's own career has been a reflection of that ethic. When he first arrived in Dallas in 1998, he was a gangly player with a deadly accurate shot and admirable ball-handling skills for a seven-footer. But he was not the kind of explosive athlete that generally excels in the NBA, and he was easily pushed around by more muscular American players. Indeed, despite establishing the Mavericks as one of the best teams in the league over the last decade, Nowitzki has been labeled "soft" by his detractors. His team's loss to the Miami Heat in the 2006 Finals seemed to cement that image among American sports writers.

The Ultimate Success

But Nowitzki continued to work. When his shot wasn't falling, he worked ball in his personal trainer Holger Geschwinder from Germany for late night shooting sessions. He worked hard on his passing and on his defense. And he stayed motivated because, in short, exactly the kind of sports star that Americans love – except that his team never quite managed to achieve the ultimate success. [...]

Dirk Nowitzki now represents the culmination of that development. He had plenty of help, to be sure. LeBron James' pre-season boogie and his triumphantly celebrated arrival in Miami last year made him into arguably the most hated figure in American sports. By vanquishing him, Nowitzki instantly became America's favorite player. The toughness, leadership and exquisite play he displayed on the court didn't hurt either.

And Germany finally has what it has waited for so long: an indisputable global sports star as popular in America and internationally as he is at home. An admired representative of the new, post-World Cup Germany. A legitimate hero. The country can now leave the lugers alone.

"Fulfilling the Dream: Nowitzki becomes the Ultimate German Star." Quelle: Charles Hawley, SPIEGEL ONLINE – 14. Juni 2011. URL: <http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,768393,00.html>

(slightly abridged)

3 **bona fide:** real – 4 **grace:** to make s.th. more attractive – 9 **to shunt aside:** to move s.b. aside as if the person doesn't want – 9 **menagerie:** a collection of wild animals – 10 **second-tier:** second rate – 10 **household name:** a famous person that most people know of – 11 **to excel in:** to be extremely good at s.th. – 12 **luge:** a sledge for racing on ice and snow that you can lie on – 13 **to make a splash:** to become suddenly very successful or very well-known – 16 **to dub:** here: to give s.th. or s.b. a particular name, esp. describing what you think of them – 17 **gushing:** expressing a positive feeling, esp. praise, in such a strong way that it does not sound sincere – 20 **playoff:** an extra game in a competition played between teams or competitors who have both got the same number of points, in order to decide who wins the competition – 21 **to vanquish:** to beat an opponent – 24 **arguably:** possibly – 24 **pantheon:** a small group of people who are the most famous, important and admired in their particular area of activity – 28 **cuddly:** having the soft quality of s.th. you like to hold and touch, like a teddy bear – 30 **Detlef Schrempf:** famous German ex-NBA basketball player – 36 **in atonement for:** s.th. you do that to show that you are sorry for s.th. bad that you did – 39 **precocious:** (esp. of children) describes someone who has achieved much more at a younger age than would normally be expected – 45 **gangly:** describes s.b., usually a boy or young man, who is very tall and thin and moves awkwardly – 49 **detractor:** someone who criticizes s.th. or s.b., often unfairly – 57 **culmination:** reaching the highest level

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