

PARENTHETICAL SUMMARIES

There are three ways to borrow secondary information (secondary source material): quoting, paraphrasing, and parenthetical summaries.

When summarizing, you condense an extended idea or argument into a sentence or more in your own words. You try to give the reader the gist of the original author's idea.

A parenthetical summary is an exceptionally short summary which is written to be less than a few sentences in length (probably about three sentences or less). This length makes parenthetical summaries short enough to fit within your own paragraphs.

Original Quote

"Daniel has a distinct problem with people with caves. Daniel has an extreme case of claustrophobia. In other words, Daniel has a fear of being in enclosed and/or tight places. Oftentimes, this fear is expressed in Daniel's inability to ride in elevators, to ride in small cars, or to fly in small planes. In some cases, the fear is so debilitating that Daniel has to walk up stairs, walk to destinations, or drive long distances. Daniel's psychotherapist, Dr. Johnson, has provided some rigorous exposure therapy. In one instance, Dr. Johnson asked Daniel to place himself in a large refrigerator box with the top open. The objective for Daniel is to learn to feel comfortable enough to be in the box long enough that it might simulate a plane flight or a long car ride. So far, Daniel's best personal time is thirty minutes in the box. During this time, Daniel did mundane tasks, such as reading a book, eating some food, and practiced self-talk to calm himself down" (Parenthetical Citation).

Parenthetical Summary

Daniel, a patient of Dr. Johnson, has extreme claustrophobia. Dr. Johnson asked Daniel to sit in a large refrigerator box to simulate an enclosed environment. Daniel has been responding to this therapy, able to spend up to thirty minutes in the box (Parenthetical Citation).