

# Argument Summary Assignment

One of the most important parts of paper writing is clearly and concisely presenting arguments. This assignment will give you some practice in doing so.

## **Assignment:**

In 300 words or fewer, write a summary of one of the following arguments from the unit “What are the rules?”:

- Singer’s argument from “The Singer solution to world poverty”
- The argument from strangeness
- Wolf’s argument against moral saints

Your job is merely to present the argument in a way that is understandable to someone outside of our class; it is *not* your job to evaluate or criticize the argument.

## **Citations:**

Good summaries will use the author’s own words to explain the argument, but judicious use of quotes can sometimes help make a point clearer. *So, you must include at least one (and no more than two) brief quotes from the relevant text.* Your quote should include an in-text citation, but you do not need to include a bibliography.<sup>1</sup>

## **Grading Criteria:**

**Understanding:** Does the summary show that you clearly understand the material you are presenting? Do you clearly and completely present the main features of the argument?

**Writing:** Is the summary free of grammatical and spelling errors? Is the writing clear and concise? Is your summary appropriate for your target audience?

## **Advice:**

You will probably need most of the 300 words provided. If you aren’t sure how to make your summary that long, know that examples are often very useful for helping people understand. Also, it is often helpful to define key terms, since your argument is intended for someone outside of our class.

You will almost certainly want to break your summary up into more than one paragraph. A good rule of thumb is that every time you discuss a new idea, you should start a new paragraph.

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<sup>1</sup> The proper citation is (Author YEAR, p. xxx) where xxx is the page number of the quote.