How to Take One Sentence Summary Notes

One sentence summaries are used to condense essential ideas from a reading, a lecture, or video.

One sentence summaries are not long, convoluted sentences with gargantuan words that distort meaning; they do not use masses of punctuation to extend the sentences; and, finally, they are do not include repetitious, extraneous information that is completely irrelevant for understanding.

See what I did there?

**How to Take Notes**

1. Read the section. This is usually about a paragraph (some may be a few paragraphs though).
2. Think about the main idea from the reading.
3. Write one single, concise sentence with the big idea only. Do not include details.

**Example**

*Passage*

“Norris was born in [Ryan, Oklahoma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ryan%2C_Oklahoma) on March 10, 1940, the son of Wilma (née Scarberry) and Ray Norris, who was a mechanic, bus driver, and truck driver. Norris has English, and smaller amounts of Scottish, Welsh, and German, ancestry; he is also said to have [Cherokee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherokee) roots. Norris was named after Carlos Berry, his father's [minister](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minister_%28Christianity%29). He has two younger brothers, Wieland (deceased) and [Aaron](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aaron_Norris) (a Hollywood producer). When Norris was sixteen, his parents divorced, and he later relocated to [Prairie Village](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prairie_Village%2C_Kansas), [Kansas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kansas), and then to [Torrance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torrance%2C_California), [California](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California), with his mother and brothers.”

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chuck\_Norris]

*One Sentence Summary*

Chuck Norris grew up in Oklahoma, Kansas, and California as the oldest of three children.

**Popular Sentence Structures That You May Find Helpful**

A is a kind of that…

 and are similar in that they both… , but … while …

 begins with… , continues with… , and ends with …

 is because…

 because …, but …, so…

 causes …

 is a result of…