Journal Article Summary Paper

A short paper is required of all students, presenting a summary of a scientific journal article listing the critical points made. Articles must be approved by Prof. D no later than the date listed. Final papers must be accompanied by the articles. Summary papers should be approximately 2.5 - 4.5 pages typed, double-spaced, plus references in a standard bibliographic format, plus any figures. Sources must be cited in the body of the paper and cited sources must be listed in a bibliography at the end. Plagiarism will be dealt with severely - see below.

The scientific journal article must present new conclusions based on data rather than simply summaries or reviews of other work.

Scientific journal article summaries must review
1) the problem posed or question asked
2) the general background to the issue
3) the methods used to study the problem
4) the data/observations/information gathered
5) the analysis or weighing of data/information
6) the conclusions

Academic Integrity:
In science writing, rarely do we quote another author. We don’t care about the words, the way a source phrased it. We care about the ideas. We write in our own words, but we cite the source of the ideas.

Write your summary in your own words - as you understand the article. However, any written passages not in your own words must be in quote marks with the source cited. Also, papers may not be constructed by paraphrasing or simply rearranging the words of passages from the source.

The source of ideas presented, even in your own words, must also be documented. For the case of the scientific journal article summaries you only need to cite your source article once and place a full bibliographic entry at the end of your summary paper. Information referred to from any other source articles must be properly cited in the body and fully listed in the bibliography.

Organization
Organization is key in this or any paper. The information must be presented in an orderly fashion. Outline your paper before you start to write it. Do not simply summarize the articles paragraph by paragraph or section by section. Determine what the key ingredients of the paper are before you start to write. (Then write it in your own words - no paraphrasing, quoting, or copying.)
In your introduction, give a brief background to the problem, what was already known, what wasn’t known, why it is important or interesting, etc, and clearly state the specific problem, question, or issue that the article addresses.

Describe the methods (sampling method, lab techniques, analytical methods) used to try to answer the question. Consider what level of detail is required here to understand your summary of the results. Don’t give needless detail if it doesn’t help the reader understand your summary.

Describe the new data gathered and any accessed from previous studies - what kind, how much, how good, etc. in the authors’ view.

Discuss the analyses of the data - the weighing of the data and analytical results, discussion of any error analysis, etc.

Present the conclusions to the posed question or problem and how well founded the authors consider them.

Citing your Sources
In any formal paper, you must cite the sources of all information except that which is common knowledge in the field. In Science writing, you cite (acknowledge) your source in the text and give the full bibliographic listing at the end of the paper. There are many standard citation and bibliography styles which can be found in a style manual or in scientific journals.

For this assignment, use the following citation and bibliography format.

(sample)

Introduction (*)
Hotspots stand among the most tantalizing realizations of the plate tectonic revolution. During the 1960's and 1970's it became evident that the active ends of volcanic island and seamount chains in the Pacific and elsewhere lie above deep-seated sources of hot rising mantle material (Wilson, 1963; 1965). Moreover, Morgan (1971, 1972) boldly proposed that mantle plumes are fixed relative to one another and therefore constitute a fixed mantle reference frame. From this fixed reference frame the "absolute" motions of lithospheric plates might be measured (e.g., Gordon and Jurdy, 1986; Yan and Kroenke, 1993). However, the presumed deep-seated origin of hotspots combined with convection of the mantle seem to rule out fixity as a general property of hotspots (Duncan and Richards, 1991). In this paper we examine the question of hotspot fixity, specifically the relative fixity of Indo-Atlantic versus Pacific hotspots, by testing the global plate circuit through Antarctica...

Bibliography (**)


Bibliography Format
This is the format of the examples above. This is one common reference style.

journal:
authors (first author’s last name first; second, third, etc. authors with initials first), title of article (in sentence case), name of journal, journal volume (name and volume both underlined or in italics), pages, year of publication.
Entries are separated by comas, with a final period.

article or chapter in a book:
authors (first author’s last name first; second, third, etc. authors with initials first), title of article (in sentence case), editors names, name of book underlined or in italics, publisher, city (the closest city listed on publication page), pages, year of publication.
Entries are separated by comas, with a final period.

book:
authors (first author’s last name first; second, third, etc. authors with initials first), name of book (underlined or in italics), publisher, city (the closest city listed on publication page), number of pages, year of publication.
Entries are separated by comas, with a final period.

other sources:
The construction of bibliographies for other kinds of sources such as newspaper and magazine articles and web pages can be found on the Post Library website, or a standard style manual, or many web sources. List the details as shown by, for example, APA bibliography mechanics but follow the style (authors, punctuation, etc.) as given above.