

Gen-AI Summarizing Articles Transcript

Presented by Dr. Bjorn Mercer, Department Chair in the School of Arts, Humanities, and Education

Hello and welcome to this informative video about summarizing articles using Copilot. My name is Dr. Bjorn Mercer, a Department Chair in the School of Arts, Humanities, and Education. Summarizing articles is an important component of researching when you're creating a paper, essay, or presentation. You need to have a lot of great information to support your assertions and ideas with expert opinions from textbooks and articles.

Typically, when you are writing a paper, you might have 1, 2, 5, or 10 articles that you need to look through. A good way to use Copilot is to have Copilot summarize those articles for you. The first thing you'll need is Copilot, your articles, and a prompt. As with anything, when you use a generative AI tool such as Copilot, you need a prompt. This prompt is to summarize an article. The context you always need is: "A college student researching for an assignment in a 100-level course." The directions are: "Please summarize the following article," and you'll add the web link there. Then you say thank you.

For this example, I have three different examples to go through. I'm researching a 16th-century Spanish friar, Bartolomé de las Casas. I'm trying to find out more about him, so I'm going to take this simple prompt with the link. This link is from Ohio State University; it's an article. Then I go to Copilot, copy it in, and ask Copilot to give me a summary. It gives me a summary of about three paragraphs. The article "Bartolomé de las Casas and 500 Years of Racial Injustice" by Dani Anthony explores the life and legacy of de las Casas, a 16th-century Spanish colonist who became a vocal advocate for the rights of indigenous peoples in the Americas. We have one paragraph, two paragraphs, three paragraphs, and then the citation, which goes to the link that I provided.

After reading this, I would like to use it. What I'll do is go to the article, read it, and write down the pertinent information, such as the title, author, date, and other details that allow me to align it to APA or MLA or whatever format I'm using. This is a great article to use.

The second example I'm going to use is to summarize an article. This one is a PDF I found. Let's see if Copilot can summarize a PDF from a website. You do the same thing: put in the new link to the PDF. Let's see what it does. It's searching and says it looks like the article is hosted on a specific academic repository that it cannot access. So here's something to know: if you find an article like the first one, it can summarize it. If you have a PDF from a website, Copilot cannot access it because it has to go one step deeper into that website, and it cannot do that. If you find PDFs or attachments at a website, Copilot cannot access them.

The final example I have here is a great chapter I found in the library. The APUS library is an absolutely wonderful resource; I use it all the time. This chapter is on Proquest, an excellent academic database. I want Copilot to summarize part of this chapter within Proquest, within the library. Let's see if it can do that. It's searching and says it looks like this article is hosted on Proquest ebook Central, which requires specific access permissions. Unfortunately, Copilot can't

directly access or summarize content on this platform. Even though you have access to the APUS library, Copilot does not. So again, you cannot give it access to the library, and it can't summarize those.

Here are three examples. The first one, which is the best, is finding an article at a quality online publication and having Copilot summarize it. It can't be behind a paywall because, like the other two examples, Copilot can't get through that. It can't summarize things within the library. If you find articles that are generally accessible online, have Copilot summarize them. If you want to use that article, keep it, write down all the pertinent information, and if you decide the summary isn't for you, discard it and move on to the next article.

This video is about summarizing articles using Copilot. Have a great day.