



A SUMMARY

A summary provides the reader with the main points of an article in as few words as possible. A summary usually does not include the writer's opinion and it is written in his or her words where possible. Look at the topic below. Then read the original article and the model summary.

Topic: Write a summary of the article, using 50-70 words.

Plan:

Baby Einstein DVDs: Educational or not?

Baby Einstein DVDs are specifically aimed at babies and toddlers. These popular DVDs feature classical music, and babies seem to love watching them. Not only do the DVDs provide busy parents with a break from having to care for their infant, they are also said to have educational benefits. Yet recent research suggests that these DVDs may not be as beneficial to children as parents may like to believe. In fact, there is evidence to suggest that television viewing between the ages of 1 and 3 could in fact be harmful to them.

Research at the University of Washington found that babies who had watched baby videos scored about 10 % lower on language skills than those who had not. In addition, experts have shown that baby videos may also be associated with attention problems later on. They claim that the more television children watch in their early years, the shorter their attention spans later in life.

The Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood is a group which has been fighting baby media companies for some time in an attempt to get them to admit that baby videos are not educational. They claim that the entire marketing strategy of companies like Baby Einstein is based on false and misleading claims that the videos are educational. Recently, the Baby Einstein company announced that they would give a full refund to anyone who had bought one of the DVDs in the last five years and wished to return it. The campaigners see the recent announcement as an unspoken admission that they did mislead the public and that the DVDs have no educational value.

Yet it will be interesting to see how many parents will actually claim the refund and return the DVDs to the company. Although the videos may not turn their children into geniuses, as they might have hoped, they continue to keep them occupied and stimulated, without the need for parental involvement. That may well be something that parents are not willing to give up.



MODEL SUMMARY:

DVDs designed specifically for babies and toddlers are very popular. Yet recent research has suggested that they may in fact be harmful to children's development. In view of those findings, a recent campaign has accused media companies of deliberately misleading parents by implying that these products have educational value. Consequently, the baby Einstein company has agreed to give a refund to parents wishing to return the DVDs, although it is uncertain how many parents will accept their offer.

Includes only important information

Organised into one cohesive paragraph

Useful language:

TIP: Leave out less important examples and details. Shorten or combine sentences and try to use your own words.

BEING CONCISE: Apparently,..., Finally,..., If..., Clearly,..., Consequently,..., In short,... Presently,... although.

