



Writing a synopsis

Management essay synopsis

You have probably come across examples of synopses, or abstracts, at the beginning of academic journal articles when researching your assignments. If you have read these synopses, you'll already know that a synopsis is a summary of the article; its arguments and conclusion. Consequently, a synopsis is very useful in helping you to decide if an article is relevant to your research, and if it is worth reading. Synopses are also an integral feature of conferences: presenters are required to submit an abstract or synopsis of their papers, which conference delegates later receive. This helps the delegates decide which presentation they will attend.

As a student you may be required to submit a synopsis to accompany a long essay or report. Your synopsis should include an overview of your arguments and conclusions. Synopses are generally only one or two paragraphs long, and they are placed before the beginning of the report or essay.

The following synopsis is of a first year essay based on a case study: Students were asked to discuss the problems facing the new team member, and to discuss solutions and methods to improve the effectiveness of teams.

Student synopsis	Comments
<p>Julia Costello is facing a difficult situation at Western Technologies Corporation. She has difficulty functioning in the executive team. This situation is explained in terms of team dynamics and a number of plausible solutions is also included. Important theories concerning the structure and function of successful teams are compared to the team at WTC. It is apparent that the team is stuck in the 'storming' stage of its development. In addition, the company must find a coherent value system which is not exclusively financial in nature under which to operate. WTC appears to be suffering from 'groupthink'. This can be remedied with the advent of more debate instead of a passive stance from group members. Another tactic to improve team work is the encouragement of 'c-type', conflict which focusses on the problem at hand rather than interpersonal conflict. With careful scrutiny, the application of remedies noted within this essay and the support of the board, the future of the executive team at WTC appears to be promising. The diagnosis of team ailments and the prescriptions for treatment can be applied to any team regardless of its orientation. This applies to both profit and not for profit sectors.</p>	<p><i>Orientation to case study</i></p> <p><i>Summary of problem analysis and discussion of solutions</i></p> <p><i>Conclusion (relates analysis of case study to wider context)</i></p>