

ISSUES OF THE GILDED AGE

Reading Strategy**Summarize**

To summarize means to write a shortened version of a given text that highlights the most important information in the text. Summarizing helps you understand the main points that you read or hear in lecture. To summarize, you should record key ideas and omit less important details. The following tips will help you summarize passages in your text:

- Read the text through once.
- Think about the essential facts and how they relate to one another.
- Write the most important facts and ideas.
- Use simple language when you write. Leave out unnecessary words and phrases that do not communicate or connect the pieces of information in your summary.

Read the following paragraph:

During the same time that Jim Crow arose in the South, Chinese immigrants faced racial prejudice on the West Coast. In 1879, California barred cities from employing people of Chinese ancestry. Several years later, San Francisco established a segregated "Oriental" school. Elsewhere, mobs of whites attacked Chinese workers, saying that they had taken "white" jobs. Congress responded to these attacks by passing the Chinese Exclusion Act, which prohibited Chinese laborers from entering the country.

A summary of this paragraph might read as follows:

Like African Americans in the South, Chinese immigrants on the West Coast experienced discrimination. They were denied jobs, segregated, and attacked by mobs. Congress responded with the Chinese Exclusion Act, prohibiting Chinese laborers from entering the country.

Directions: Read the subsection entitled "African Americans Oppose Injustices" in Section 1 of your textbook. On a separate sheet of paper, write a brief summary of the section. Then, answer the questions below.

Hint: Write the most important facts and ideas in simple sentences.

1. What main ideas and key facts did you include in your summary?
2. How long is your summary compared to the original text?
3. Which facts and ideas did you exclude? Explain your answer.