

Summary Exercise: Step 2

Your initial submission shall contain a concise description of the topic and a bibliography.

1. Choose a concise and informative title. It shall characterize the topic, not the sources. (Do not name it: “Summary of article X by authors Y”.)
2. Describe your topic briefly and on a high level: What is it about? Why is it important for society? In more detail:

The subject may have immediate applications, or it may contribute to a larger field of science being relevant for society – in any case, where do you see the connection? In the case of historical articles also take the publication years into account, argue why the subject is still relevant, and mention what has changed since then.

The intended reader is an interested and intelligent layman. Note that the reader would, in general, not even know the technical terminology. Therefore use simple words. But still, be scientifically correct in your statements. It might be helpful to imagine that you have to describe the topic briefly and in an appealing (but truthful) way on a poster – what would you write there?

3. Put the most relevant literature for your topic in the bibliography, in general: your main source, and perhaps related articles.
4. Also make it somehow obvious in your description why the selected articles are the key references for your topic.

The recommended text length so far is at most 1 printed page.