

## General advice for 9.12 students writing research summaries:

1. Site the paper by Scheiffele et al. (2000) don't provide the whole title. Include the reference for the paper at the end of the document.
2. Start with an overview explaining the area of inquiry, i.e., the intellectual context for the paper. Include the scope of your summary in the overview, i.e., say that you have summarized the results of the eight experiments reported by Scheiffele and colleagues.
3. Your summaries of the eight experiments should include the method, rationale, results, and interpretation. Consider devoting one paragraph to each of the experiments. Include the question they've asked, the method, rationale, results, and interpretation. If you choose to discuss more than one experiment in a single paragraph because they are closely related, make sure your topic sentence reflects this organization.
4. Refer to the authors as "the researchers" or "Scheiffele and colleague" so you can use active voice, e.g., The researchers examined the role of neuropeptides and neuroexins in synaptogenesis.
5. Devote each sentence to only one idea – a sentence is a unit of discourse. Write two sentences if you have two ideas to express (e.g., what they did and why they did it that way).
6. Provide each paragraph with a topic sentence that tells the reader what the paragraph is about. A paragraph is also a unit of discourse – one topic per paragraph please. Look over your topic sentences after you've written the paper to see if the "story" your summary tells is evident in the topic sentences alone.
7. Please make an appointment to see me if you find that you have having too much difficulty with your summary.
8. **IF YOU TURN IN A REVISION FOR REGRADING, IT MUST BE DOUBLE SPACED AND YOU MUST INCLUDE THE ORIGINAL DRAFT WITH ALL OF MY COMMENTS PLUS MY COVER PAGE.**

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