

## Writing a Summary Paragraph based on a News Report Exemplar

### Original News Report:

#### Girl confessed in mom's death, court told

Teen recants videotaped statement

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Mississauga - A Mississauga teenager accused of drowning her mother in a bathtub confessed she first considered getting her drunk enough to pass out on a bed so she could set it on fire, a court heard yesterday.

Instead, the teen crafted a plan that "was just a lot less messy" and which involved holding her alcoholic mother's head underwater for four minutes, the girl said on secretly recorded conversations that were shown in a Brampton courtroom yesterday.

"It was either me or [my mother] and I'm younger so I saw myself as having more potential," the young woman, who is now 19 years old, was heard saying on the videotapes.

The girl and her 18-year-old sister have pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder in the death of their 44-year-old mother on Jan. 18, 2003. The drowning was first ruled accidental. The girls were 15 and 16 years old at the time, but were not charged until more than a year later. They elected to stand trial in front of a judge without a jury.

The sisters, who are out on bail, cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. The identities of others -- including their mother -- who would identify them also cannot be disclosed.

In his opening statement, Deputy Crown Attorney Michael Cantlon claimed both sisters "planned the deliberate death of their mother" by having the intoxicated woman consume Tylenol 3 and helping her into a bathtub.

**Comment [P1]:** Headline

**Comment [P2]:** Subheading

**Comment [P3]:** By-Line

**Comment [P4]:** where

**Comment [P5]:** who

**Comment [P6]:** what

**Comment [P7]:** how

**Comment [P8]:** where

**Comment [P9]:** when

**Comment [P10]:** LEAD

**Comment [P11]:** Expansion paragraph on how it happened.

**Comment [P12]:** Quotation from the accused.

**Comment [P13]:** Expansion on where the information was gathered.

**Comment [P14]:** Less important information about why their names cannot be released.

**Comment [P15]:** Quotation by the Crown Attorney to the case.

### Exemplar Summary of News Report:

This news article describes the confession of a 19-year-old girl who is accused of drowning her mother on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2003, in a bathtub. Her secretly videotaped confession was heard in court yesterday, where she said that the choice was between her life and her mother's life. The girl and her 18-year-old sister have pleaded not guilty to the first-degree murder charge. The trial is still going on.

## Writing a Summary - Checklist

### Reading

- I have shown an understanding of my source(s)/original text;
- I have found the main idea of my source(s)/original text and at least two supporting details;
- I have taken the whole text into account;
- I have made appropriate connections to my source(s)/original text;
- I have taken notes on key points.

### Planning

- I have planned my summary using rough notes.

### Writing

- I have written my summary in complete sentences;
- I have omitted nonessential information and unnecessary words;
- I have organized my ideas clearly to help my reader follow and understand my summary;
- I have used transitions to link my ideas;
- I have conveyed an effective tone through word choice and level of language;
- I have not included opinion statements;
- I have written an effective paragraph or series of paragraphs;
- I have used third-person point of view consistently;
- I have created a beginning, middle, and end that flow using connecting words and linking sentences;
- I have used a consistent verb tense;
- I have cited my sources, if appropriate.

### Revising and Editing

- I have used the stages of the writing process to revise my work;
- I have asked a peer to read and critique my summary;
- I have checked my grammar, spelling, and punctuation;
- I have created a summary that will appeal to my audience and meet my purpose.

### Producing

- I have neatly and clearly written or typed my final copy.