

2005 DUC Summary-Writing Task

You will be given 32 DUC topics and the set of “highly relevant” documents for each topic, which were collected during the Topic Development phase at NIST. The topics will include the ones that you wrote, plus additional topics written by other assessors. For each topic:

1. Please **READ** the topic and all the documents provided for the topic. Use a highlighting pen to highlight the sentences/excerpts containing information that would help satisfy the request for information expressed in the topic. Information that is repeated in more than one document should be highlighted in all those documents. If you end up with any documents that have nothing highlighted, make a note of the topic number and document id and set the document aside.
2. Please **WRITE** a 250-word summary of your highlighted text that satisfies the information need expressed in the topic. (This is a strict limit; any text beyond the first 250 words will be deleted.) The summary should be written at the level of granularity requested for the topic:
 - A **specific** summary should describe and name specific events (e.g., “the bombing of the Pan Am jet over Lockerbie in 1988”), people (e.g., “Gadhafi”), places (e.g., “Lockerbie”), etc. These specifics are central to the summary and should be generalized only if there is not enough space to include them all.
 - A **general** summary refers to categories/types of things (e.g., “terrorist bombings”, “dictators in the Middle East”, “Scottish cities”) but can refer to specific events, people, places, etc., as illustrative examples *if space allows*; however, unless the topic statement explicitly requests something specific, these examples themselves are not the focus of the summary.

The summary should be well-organized, in English, using complete sentences. You may use a blank line to separate paragraphs, but do not use any other formatting (such as bulleted points, tables, bold-face type, etc.) to organize your summary. The summary should include all information answering the topic. This means that you might have to generalize some of the information in order to fit everything in 250 words. However, please **DO NOT** use specialized knowledge to draw conclusions or make inferences that are not obvious in the documents.

3. Please **RATE** the topic statement as to its clarity (1-5, 5 being very clear). Give a lower rating if there was something that you would have liked clarification about from the author of the topic, which could have changed how you wrote your answer for the topic.

Keep all of your ratings in one file, which you will email to Lori after you have written summaries for all the topics. Each line of the file should have the topic number, followed by a space, followed by the rating of clarity. Also email to Lori a file containing any notes that you made about any document that wasn't used in the summary for its associated topic.