## Summary

### Introduction

- Start with a summary or overview of the article which includes the author's name and the title of the article.
- Finish with a thesis statement that states the main idea of the article.

#### **Body Paragraphs**

- The number of paragraphs in your summary depends on the length of the original article.
- Your summary should be about one third the length of the original article.
- Start each body paragraph with a topic sentence.
- Each paragraph focuses on a separate main idea and just the most important details from the article.
- Put the ideas from the essay into your own words. Avoid copying phrases and sentences from the article.
- Use transitional words and phrases to connect ideas.

# **Concluding Paragraph**

• Summarize the main idea and the underlying meaning of the article.

#### Bats

In the article "Bats," by Debbie Dean, we learn that in contrast to some mistaken beliefs, bats are not blind rodents that usually have rabies. They have sight, are mammals, and are not especially likely to carry rabies. Bats are relatively misunderstood and unappreciated.

Bats have some interesting physical features. They have similar bone structure and skeletons to that of humans, so they are not winged rodents. They are color blind, so they use echolocation if there is not sufficient light. Otherwise, their sight is enough.

Species of bats total about a thousand. The species come in a variety of sizes and have unique diets. Most eat insects, but some eat plant products and small animals. However, vampire bats drink blood, which can be harmful to livestock. Farmers have accidentally killed many innocent bats while trying to rid themselves of vampire bats.

Bats can actually be helpful to humans. An important trait of bats is their ability to destroy many unwanted bugs. They also spread fruit seeds and pollinate plants. However, the survival of bats is not known because many are killed by human disruptions and predators. The bat population has dropped steadily and may continue to drop.

Hopefully, we will realize that although bats look different than our favorite animals, we can learn to accept and admire their value and uniqueness.