**Brief Summaries of English 185 Paper Types**

Writers must pay attention to the appropriate form of their paper as well as the procedures for writing such a paper.

**Summaries** are brief restatements of the content of a source. Summaries should focus on the main idea of the source while indentifying key points, which support or explain the main idea. They should be brief, complete, and objective. A guideline for writing summaries can be found in Behren’s *Writing and Reading Across the Curriculum: Ninth Edition* on Page 7.

**Critiques** are an evaluation of a source. In order to evaluate, writers must summarize and present the central purpose of the source. Critiques should comment on the degree of success on which the author was able to convey his purpose and argue his main idea. This assessment should be based on the validity of the author’s arguments. Critiques should include the writer’s response to the ideas and arguments of the source. A guideline for writing critiques can be found in Behren’s on Page 59.

**Syntheses** are written discussions based on multiple sources. Writers must read material and evaluate the sources relationship with one another. They must then decide on a purpose for the combination of the ideas and then develop their own thesis of the relationship. Syntheses are papers that use multiply sources to argue one all inclusive idea. A guideline for writing syntheses can be found in Behren’s on Page 94-95.

**Arguments** make claims and then use ideas to support them. Argument papers are meant to persuade more than inform. A great deal of care is needed to make sure that arguments are valid. Professors vary on requiring arguments to be validated with outside sources. Argument papers simply argue a thesis in an organized manner.