Summary

- Brief description of key or important points
- Summarizing a text means taking the main idea and the most important supporting ideas of the reading and presenting them in an organized and logical manner.
- Should NOT include insignificant details, unnecessary specific details, or your opinion

Description

- Observing, chronicling, and interpreting the essence of a piece
- Incorporates interpretive choices (makes judgements about appearance, tone, mood, etc.) but does not go as far as to indicate what inferences can be made based on these details.

Analysis

- Examines details (through close reading) in order to find out what something means
- Breaks text into parts to examine how these parts influence interpretation, create meaning, and produce effects on the audience
- Investigates why you made certain judgements or came to certain conclusions (consciously or otherwise)
- Explains your thought process, linking your claims to the available evidence in a logical, coherent, and detailed manner. In other words, makes the implicit explicit.

Critical Reading

Critical—from the latin criticare, meaning “to analyze, to take apart,” NOT “fault-finding”

--to take a closer look, to see actively beyond the surface of the words and images you encounter.

--to re-examine a text from a fresh angle, with a more inquiring and analytical eye, and with sustained attention to detail.