

## Microtheme 1: Summary

<b>Description:</b>	200-250 word summary paragraph, plus MLA-format Works Cited page
<b>Source:</b>	Berreby, "It Takes a Tribe"
<b>Total Points:</b>	50
<b>Due Date:</b>	Mon, 1/23

### The Assignment

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In a brief paragraph, restate in your own words the content of "It Takes a Tribe," focusing on Berreby's central claim and the main points that support it. The language of your summary should be independent of the original and contain few, if any, quotations. The summary must be accurate and complete, communicating your understanding of the essay as a whole and its purpose. It should be understandable to a reader who is not already familiar with Berreby's essay.

### Strategies

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Read the essay carefully, identifying the author's main claim and the key ideas that support that claim. Remember that the thrust of the argument may come later in the piece—it's your job to hone in and reframe it for your audience. Once you have a clear sense of the author's argument, paraphrase by substituting your own words for the original. Using transitions, attributive tags, and strong verbs (e.g. "Tannen claims"; "Steele argues"), arrange your sentences so they read logically and smoothly. Be sure to frequently check the draft of your summary against the original for accuracy, objectivity, and completeness.

### Criteria for Evaluation

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1. Are the summaries of the central claim and supporting details complete and given appropriate emphasis reflective of the original?
2. Does the writer remain independent and objective by paraphrasing the author's words, using a minimum of quotations, and **avoiding** judgment or personal response?
3. Would the microtheme be understandable to someone unfamiliar with the essay?
4. Does the microtheme exhibit brevity and coherence through a logical flow of ideas and the use of transitions, attributive tags, and strong verbs?