Unit 3: Marketing in Color

About the Genre: An Article Summary

What is it?
An article summary is short. It gives the most important information in a larger article. A summary will include only the main ideas of the article, leaving out all detail. You can find book summaries on the back of books. Movie reviews include summaries. An abstract is a summary of an academic article or study. Many articles summarize ideas from other sources. To write a research paper, you must summarize ideas from your research.

What is the purpose?
Summaries have many purposes. The summaries on the back of books and in movie reviews get people interested in the book or movie. These summaries do not summarize the whole story. Teachers ask students to write summaries to show that they understand what they read. Article summaries give key ideas of the whole article, which helps the reader know if reading the complete article would be helpful. This might be useful in choosing which articles to read if writing a research paper.

What is the structure?
Article summaries give information about the article such as author and title. They are usually written in the present tense using a formal tone. A summary’s topic sentence usually includes the article’s main idea. Summaries use different words than the original articles. The writer of a summary is careful not to use the same words as the author of the full-length article.

Comprehension Questions
1. Where would you expect to find a summary?
   a. on a restaurant menu
   b. on a website that reviews and sells books
   c. in an advertisement

2. Why do people read summaries when they write research papers?
   a. to decide if an article is useful for their paper
   b. to encourage others to read more
   c. to give a complete description of the project

3. What is important to do when writing a summary of an article? **Choose two.**
   a. include only the key ideas
   b. give a vivid description
   c. use your own words