

Reference Table 2: Reading for Content

Thinking Process	Parts of the Summary:
Identify the larger topic or focus Every work starts with a general topic or focus. Usually a writer is motivated to say something about this topic, which can be a social issue or debate.	Describe the basic topic or focus of a work
Identify the main idea Every work has at its core one main idea. This idea is the thing the author most wants us to understand.	Then identify the main idea -- what the author has to say about that topic.
Map the key points Every work is developed in a set of key points. Each of these points is offered because it helps us understand the author's main idea.	And finally list the key points the author offers to develop that main idea.