

# Write a Summary

A summary of an article or story shouldn't be funny or extremely detailed.

It should be brief and include just the basic facts the reader needs to know. In this activity, we are going to help you write a summary of the life of Robert Smalls from "Freedom or Death."

First, you will read 12 sentences about his life.

Then, you will decide which seven are the most important; these belong in your summary.

Afterward, you will write a summary based on the information you've chosen.

**Directions:** Read through the sentences below. Underline the sentences that are most important to the story. There are SEVEN important sentences.

## 1. Choose the SEVEN statements below that are most important to the story.

Robert Smalls was born into slavery, owned by the McKees.

Hannah Jones worked as a maid in a hotel.

Robert Smalls' mother insisted that he should never run away because their owners treated them with kindness.

Robert led the slave crew in hijacking the *Planter*, collecting his family and giving the ship to the Northern Army.

Robert Smalls paid Mr. McKee \$15 a month from his earnings in Charleston.

Smalls married a woman named Hannah Jones, and they raised three children whom he wanted freed from slavery.

The Civil War began in 1861, because of a disagreement over the rights of Southern states to continue slavery.

Robert Smalls was 23 when he decided to escape.

Robert worked on a boat called the *Planter*, which was drafted into service in the Southern Army.

At age 15, Robert Smalls moved to Charleston to work in the city, hired out by his owners.

Captain Relyea wore a distinctive wide-brimmed hat.

Robert became a successful businessman after the war, and was elected to the U.S. Congress.

## 2. Using the seven important events you've underlined, write a short summary of the life of Robert Smalls.