AP Language and Composition
Academic Summary
Hot seat opens Tuesday 9 October and closes Tuesday 16 October
Papers are turned in Wednesday 17 October

Why is summary important? See Graff's discussion of the Burkean parlor in the introduction of *They Say/I Say*. Knowing what's been said provides the background and basis for what we contribute to a discussion.

1. Practice in class summarizing the main argument in "Kids, put down those sodas." Write the argument in about 100 words.

2. View the academic summary for "Consider the Lobster," a longer text. Nesbitt gets a chapter-length essay down to a page and a half—it's a different project from yours but the larger scale helps you to see her moves. How does she find her way in? How does she summarize in an exigent way without taking a stand?

3. Write a summary of Tompkins' "Indians" article. Be sure to come in at about 300 words. To achieve your purpose with your audience, use the following strategies:

- Introduce the text in the beginning of your summary. Include the author's name, the date of publication, and the publication title.
- Use stasis theory to help you classify and characterize the kind of argument the author is making. With stasis theory, you can also identify the thrust of the larger conversation that the author is participating in.
- Focus on the writer's arguments by reporting the text's thesis and supporting ideas. Show that you understand the "big picture"—the writer's purpose and how s/he supports it.
- Maintain the focus on the overall argument of the article. Avoid giving too many specific examples. You can generalize about the type of evidence or methods of arguing he employs to support his argument. You may want to include some of the key phrases that are central to his argument and an explanation of what those mean and how they are employed.
- Use "author tags" so that your reader understands that you are reporting the author's ideas rather than suggesting they are your ideas.
- Use an objective tone and a mix of paraphrased and quoted (and cited) source material.