Student Evaluation of Writing Activities:
I: Abstracts

This course fulfills the Writing General Education Requirement. As part of practicing and improving writing skills, students are required to turn in prior to each class “daily abstracts” of approximately 500 words, in which they are supposed to summarize the main arguments of the assigned readings, relate individual texts with one another, and occasionally respond to specific questions provided by the instructor. However, as the purpose of daily abstracts is not limited to developing writing skills, the following questionnaire attempts to assess as many as possible of their functions.

As students who have been practicing this activity this semester, your input will be valuable in assessing its strength and weaknesses, and in deciding what aspects should be kept as they are or improved. Please respond as honestly as you can, and feel free to include your own suggestions.

1. Describe what you think are generally the purposes (e.g., motivation to work, improvement of specific skills) of writing abstracts. Do they really work for you?

2. Do you consider that writing daily abstracts essentially contributes to practicing and improving writing skills? Explain why.

3. Do you consider that writing daily abstracts essentially contributes to practicing and improving reading skills? Explain why. Does writing abstracts have an impact on the way you read the assigned texts? Explain.
4. How important do you think is the role played by reading skills in writing skills? Explain.

5. Describe and evaluate the kinds of feedback you receive from the instructor on your abstracts (e.g., concerning prose, clarity, argument).

6. Describe and evaluate the ways in which students’ abstracts are integrated in the class discussion.

7. Do you find useful to have access on moodle to, or share in the classroom, other students’ abstracts? Explain why.

8. Do you prefer to be given concrete questions regarding your abstracts or to rely on your own judgment as to what is more essential in the assigned text(s)?
9. How much time do you spend in average on writing the abstracts? (You may go into further details, such as the impact of this task on the time you invest on reading the assigned texts, etc.)

10. Do you find that the grades you receive for your abstracts adequately reflect your performance?

11. Any other comments about the abstracts or the course in general?