Writing a summary

Englisch · Klasse 11 · mittel · Lösungen

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Name: _____ Datum: _____

kostenlos, mit Lösungen

Text (invented, 210 words): Cities around the world are experimenting with „15-minute neighbourhoods", in which everything a resident needs — shops, schools, doctors, parks — lies within a quarter of an hour's walk or cycle ride. Paris has been the most prominent example since 2020, when the mayor made the idea part of her re-election campaign. Supporters argue that such neighbourhoods reduce traffic, cut emissions and bring back a sense of community that car-based planning destroyed. Local shops profit because people no longer drive to out-of-town centres. Critics, however, raise two objections. First, the concept works well in dense inner cities but poorly in suburbs, where distances are large and public transport is thin. Second, some fear that the model divides cities into islands and makes it harder for poorer residents to reach jobs elsewhere. In Oxford, a related traffic plan even led to protests in 2023, partly fuelled by online conspiracy theories claiming that residents would be „locked in". Urban planners reply that no one is prevented from leaving their neighbourhood; the aim is simply that they should not have to. Whether the idea spreads will depend less on planning than on politics: the 15-minute city is cheap to draw, but expensive to build.

1 Preparation: Find the key information.

Underline key words, cross out examples, quotes and repetitions.

a) Topic in one phrase: *15-minute neighbourhoods as a model for city planning*

b) Three arguments of the supporters: *less traffic and emissions; more community; local shops profit*

c) Two objections of the critics: *doesn't work in suburbs; could isolate poorer residents from jobs*

d) The author's concluding point: *Success depends on politics, because the idea is expensive to realise.*

2 Summary rules: Which sentences break a rule? Write the rule.

Rules: own words, present tense, no details or examples, no opinion, no quotes, about a third of the length.

a) „The mayor made the idea part of her re-election campaign in 2020."
a detail / example — leave out

b) „In my opinion, this is a good idea." *no own opinion*

c) „Cities are experimenting with 15-minute neighbourhoods," says the author.
no quotes — use your own words

d) The text was written in the past tense. *summaries are written in the present tense*

3 Write the summary (60 to 80 words).

Logical order, linking words (while, however, according to), present tense.

a) Introductory sentence: The text „…" by _____ deals with …
e.g. The text deals with the concept of 15-minute neighbourhoods, in which residents can reach everything they need on foot or by bike. Supporters say the model reduces traffic and emissions, strengthens local shops and community. Critics object that it fails in suburbs and might cut poorer residents off from jobs, and in Oxford a similar plan even provoked protests. The author concludes that the idea's success depends on political will, as it is costly to implement.