TAC 2010
Guided Summary Task

Scenario Description

In the guided summarization task, you will write a 100-word summary of a set of 10 newswire articles for a given topic, where the topic falls into a predefined category. There are five topic categories: Accidents and Natural Disasters, Attacks, Health and Safety, Endangered Resources, Investigations and Trials. Below you can find a list of important aspects for each category, and a summary must cover all these aspects (if the information can be found in the documents). The summaries may also contain other information relevant to the topic.

Additionally, an "update" component of the guided summarization task is to write a 100-word "update" summary of a subsequent 10 newswire articles for the topic, under the assumption that the user has already read the earlier articles. This is based on the following scenario: A user is interested in a particular news story and wants to track it as it develops over time, so she subscribes to a news feed that sends her relevant articles as they are submitted from various news services. However, either there's so much news that she can't read all the articles, or she reads some articles before leaving for a while, and then wants to catch up. Because many of the articles keep repeating the same information, she would like a summary of the important points of the articles, that provides new information from what she's already read. The list of aspects define what counts as "important information" in each category, but you can also include other facts which you think are important to a given topic.

Summary-Writing Task

You have been given 45 topics. Each topic has a topic title and 20 relevant documents which have been divided into 2 sets: Document Set A and Document Set B. Each document set has 10 documents, where all the documents in Set A arrive from the news services before the documents in Set B.

The topic's category is indicated in the topic ID (1 = Accidents/Natural Disasters, 2 = Attacks, 3 = Health and Safety, 4 = Endangered Resources, 5 = Investigations and Trials).

You will summarize documents for the topics that you developed plus additional topics developed by other assessors. Each topic should be treated independently of the others (i.e., don't use information from one topic when writing summaries for another topic).

For each topic, you will write 2 summaries (one for Set A and one for Set B) that address the required aspects for each category.

The categories and their required aspects are as follows:

1. Accidents and Natural Disasters:

WHAT: what happened

WHEN: date, time, other temporal placement markers

WHERE: physical location

WHY: reasons for accident/disaster

WHO_AFFECTED: casualties (death, injury), or individuals otherwise negatively affected by the accident/disaster

DAMAGES: damages caused by the accident/disaster

COUNTERMEASURES: countermeasures, rescue efforts, prevention efforts, other reactions to the accident/disaster

2. Attacks (Criminal/Terrorist):

WHAT: what happened

WHEN: date, time, other temporal placement markers

WHERE: physical location

PERPETRATORS: individuals or groups responsible for the attack

WHY: reasons for the attack

WHO_AFFECTED: casualties (death, injury), or individuals otherwise negatively affected by the attack

DAMAGES: damages caused by the attack

COUNTERMEASURES: countermeasures, rescue efforts, prevention efforts, other reactions to the attack (e.g. police investigations)

3. Health and Safety:

WHAT: what is the issue

WHO_AFFECTED: who is affected by the health/safety issue

HOW: how they are affected

WHY: why the health/safety issue occurs

COUNTERMEASURES: countermeasures, prevention efforts

4. Endangered Resources:

WHAT: description of resource

IMPORTANCE: importance of resource

THREATS: threats to the resource

COUNTERMEASURES: countermeasures, prevention efforts

5. Investigations and Trials (Criminal/Legal/Other):

WHO: who is a defendant or under investigation

WHO_INV: who is investigating, prosecuting, or judging

WHY: general reasons for the investigation/trial

CHARGES: specific charges to the defendant

PLEAD: defendant's reaction to charges, including admission of guilt, denial of charges, or explanations

SENTENCE: sentence or other consequences to defendant

In the summary, you should cover all the relevant aspects if such information can be found in the source documents. You can also optionally include other important and relevant information.

The summary for Document Set A should be a straightforward topic-focused summary; the summary for Document Set B is also topic-focused but should be written under the assumption that the user of the summary has already read the **documents** in Set A.

Each summary should be well-organized, in English, using complete sentences. You may use a blank line to separate paragraphs, but do not use any other formatting (such as bulleted points, tables, bold-face type, etc.) to organize your summary. The summary should be no more than 100 words long (it may be shorter). The summary should include all information that addresses the list of aspect required for a particular category. While your summary should cover all relevant aspects listed above (provided that such information is available in the documents), it can also include other facts which you deem particularly important to the topic. This means that you might have to generalize some of the information in order to fit everything in 100 words. However, please DO NOT use specialized knowledge to draw conclusions or make inferences that are not obvious in the documents. If it's impossible to fit *all* the information into a summary, try making the summary more concise. As a last resort, you can refer to your judgment about which facts are more important to the story and should be included in the summary.

Summary A   Read the first set of documents (Set A), and write a 100-word summary of the documents that addresses the information need expressed by the topic title and the list of aspect for the topic's category (if the information is available in Set A). Do not let articles in Set B influence how you write a summary for Set A; you should not even look at documents in Set B when writing Summary A.

Summary B   Read the second set of documents (Set B) and write a 100-word summary of these documents that addresses the information need expressed by the topic title and the list of aspects for the topic's category, assuming the user has already read all the **documents** in Set A in their entirety (not just the summary that you wrote for Set A). Summary B should highlight new information, including any corrections or modifications of what had been reported in Set A. If Set B does not have any new or different topic-relevant information, make a note of the topic number, and move on to the next topic.