# The Precis or Long Summary:

**Is a method of summarizing a text – in the same sequence as the original, but much more briefly.**

* **A precis uses quotations judiciously – that is, when the original makes the point better than you could.**
* **It makes parenthetical reference to the original text whenever you are reporting its ideas and or words.**

**Process:**

**READ the original source**

**Identify and copy the main claims, with page numbers in a new document.**

**Example:” Chapter 4, Sociology of Religion:**

**Sociology of religion seeks to understand it as a natural phenomenon and although less critically radical today, insists that “it must to some degree be understood as socially constructed.” (Hamilton, p33).**

**FRAME the author into the report – constantly: Always name the author and the text you are reporting on in the first paragraph in which you discuss them.**

**Cite page numbers parenthetically at the end of every quote or paraphrase.**

**Attach a Works Cited page, MLA style, citing authors in alphabetical order by surname, following MLA format rules.**

**According to Malcolm Hamilton, in his chapter “Sociology of Religion” in the *Introduction to World’s Religions*, sociology of religion seeks to understand it as a natural phenomenon and although less critically radical today, insists that “it must to some degree be understood as socially constructed.” (Hamilton, p33). He observes that in the sociology of religion, scholars are expected to adopt a stance of “methodological agnosticism,” that is, we suspend judgement about the claims of a tradition and examine the culture a social phenomenon (p33).**