

## What *exactly* is a personal summary?

A personal summary is a 100-1000 word paragraph (or two) in which you simply share your description of the monthly meeting or you simply share your thoughts about life in general. It should have a minimum of 100 words, but not exceed 1000 words because:



a. Statistics prove that if something is too long in our audio-visual (TV, radio, internet, etc.,) society, many readers will skim over it, and claim to have read it, rather than read it.

b. At the end of every year the personal summaries will be placed into a book. The book will have photographs and artwork. It must have photographs and artwork because statistics prove that if a book has too much text without photos in our audio-visual society, many readers will skim over the text (if they even open it), rather than read it. Photos entice people to want to know more about the text. (That is the one and only reason why this proposal has pictures.) In addition, when we create the book, we can easily have the book translated into at least one other language (Spanish). In that way, when we welcome new members into our group who do not speak English well, we can give them the book to read in their first language, in addition to sitting down and telling them what the group is all about.

#4. If you have a private or public conflict or a disagreement, please do not place anyone's name in the personal summary. This is to prevent the public personal summaries from being used to facilitate personal attacks, even if it is done accidentally.

#5. Please write your artist number, found on the bottom of your membership card, at the bottom of each personal summary that you submit. You do not need to place your name, but placing your artist number is important in order to easily account for SP points.



## Why is a personal summary so important?

Six main reasons:

**#1. The first reason why a personal summary is so important is to avoid becoming a victim of every peace activist's traditional 'resignation' from projects which do not display concrete value, and worth to the community.** This Networking for Peace group must continuously and vividly display, prove and increase its level of importance to avoid being 'bumped off' for another peace activist's project. Such a replacement process is not necessarily a bad thing, but a fact of life and is present in most every peace activist's busy schedule.

**#2. The second reason why a personal summary so important is to avoid becoming a victim of every sponsor's traditional 'disinterest and financial withdrawal' from projects which do not display concrete value, and worth to the community.** This Networking for Peace Multicultural Cohousing Resource Neighborhood must continuously and vividly display, prove and increase its level of importance to avoid being 'bumped off' for another peace activist's project that a sponsor is willing to devote their donations to. Such a replacement process is not necessarily a bad thing, but a fact of life and is present in most every Sponsor's typically limited budget.



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**#3. The third reason why a personal summary is so important is so that every member's sweat equity will be accessible to everyone. In that way all members have direct measures of accountability to one another, and not to a 'leader' or 'supervisor'.** It is not enough to request members to sign-off on a project, and it is not enough to have a roster of attendance and it is not enough to have minutes at a meeting. Hundreds of thousands of other projects which had sign-offs, rosters of attendance, and minutes at meetings still were abandoned by groups due to unequal sweat equity even though they had those forms of signature accountability and group notes

**#4. The fourth reason why a personal summary is so important is to establish an ongoing history of the networking for peace group so we don't have to spend small or large percentages of our 12 monthly meetings per year (a total of only 24 hours) repeating the history of the group.** Many groups, especially when new members arrive, or when current members have missed prior meetings, have been known to spend over 50% of their meeting time devoted exclusively to listening to the history of

the group, and the history of various projects. Many of you have witnessed the same use of repeating history in many activist groups.

Verbally repeating history lessons to a group that only meets 24 hours per year will:

**a. Completely destroy our ability to be productive at meetings. Completely.** Many of you reading this have witnessed it first hand in many groups. History lessons are undeniably important but it should be primarily repeated in print, or verbally explained outside of a meeting and not during scarce and limited meeting time.



Japanese Calligraphy for  
“quiet repose”

**b. Discourage quiet people from interrupting history lessons.** About 30-50% of the people in meetings in which history lessons are given never have a chance to speak. Such percentages are repeatedly and almost at every meeting in which history lessons are given. It is our hope that more people will have a chance to speak at meetings if we stop spending time verbally repeating the history of the group within the 2-hour meeting time.

**#5. The fifth reason why a personal summary is so important is to empower women. A personal summary will help to empower those who say nothing at meetings or must be absent when trying to build their career, to have an equal voice in creating a better world, a world of peace.**

When taking into consideration the sexism that plagues the USA and the world, we must come to realize that perhaps women voice their thoughts and dissent less in groups primarily because the typical male-dominated influence in their family has taught them to be that way. Such households tend to teach women to be unassertive and teach women not to publicly disagree with men. In addition, many women have

unconsciously realized that, as a result of sexism, when they do speak, their contributions and ideas carry less weight and influence than those of males.

Iris Marion Young has a book titled “Communication and the Other: Beyond Deliberative Democracy.”

Mansbridge’s analysis of the role of gender in participation in Helpline is worth noting. She shows that although Helpline had a “comparatively strong interest in women... ..derived from the national strength of the women’s liberation movement” there were still very serious examples of unequal participation based on gender. “Women tended to talk and to attend meetings slightly less often than the men, were less satisfied with the decisions at Helpline, and perceived their own power as lower.” Some of the reasons for this unequal participation, Mansbridge found, were that the women were more likely to have an “interruptible career orientation” and the female leadership was more likely to be considered “bitchy.”<sup>1</sup>

**#6. The sixth reason why a personal summary is so important is to enable more effective minority outreach as we share the history of the Networking for Peace group in foreign language versions of the book once the emails from the email list are compiled.**

**#7. The seventh reason why a personal summary is so important is it will enable our group to network with the country and the world using every available form of grassroots media as we create the seven neighborhoods.**

We will publish the personal summaries to many forms of grassroots media: weblogs (blogs, journals found on the internet), newspapers, audio and video as we gather support for this project.

## How does a member prove accountability if they are not physically present for a meeting?

Each person submits a 100-1000 word "personal summary" within 2 weeks after every Networking for Peace meeting. They should email it to the personal summary email list. If a person were not physically present for the meeting, their personal summary would be created after they read the personal summaries of everyone else (found on the email list) who attended the meeting that person missed. Example: Networking for peace member Shakiah was supposed to be at a meeting on October 15th. But on October 15th she was in the hospital (she was in the hospital, or she was in jail after a peace protest, or she went to a tent city conference across the country, or a peace conference in India, she got a one-day very high paying job that day etc.).



March 15<sup>th</sup>, Peace Protest

Photo found here:  
[www.users.bigpond.com/Takver/soapbox/peace/peace150303.htm](http://www.users.bigpond.com/Takver/soapbox/peace/peace150303.htm)



Betty Kituyi of Uganda spoke for Transcend Art for Peace at the International Peace Conference on Peace Education for Contemporary Concerns

Held on January 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in Jaipur, India

Photo and information found here:  
[www.islandnet.com/~bbc/\\_articles/betty\\_kituyi\\_report.htm](http://www.islandnet.com/~bbc/_articles/betty_kituyi_report.htm)

Shakiah had a choice. If she wanted to submit a personal summary that did not relate to the meeting, she could have chosen to do so at any time after the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. But she wanted to read the personal summaries of other members at the meeting, so she waited until Nov 1st before writing her personal summary for the October 15th meeting. This is because everyone who physically attended the meeting has exactly two weeks (which, in this case, would be October 29<sup>th</sup>) to turn in her or his summary. On November 1st, she went to the members-only email list, entered her password, and read the personal summaries of her fellow members who submitted personal summaries for the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. After reading the personal summaries of fellow members, she has until November 5<sup>th</sup> (which is 3 weeks after the October 15<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting) to email her personal summary to the "personal summaries" email list in order to receive 100 SP points for the October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005 meeting.

## Why is it important to begin the personal summaries immediately?

There are two main reasons:

- #1. To immediately begin establishing a history of our group to reduce history lessons in future meetings.
- #2. To avoid procrastination. It would be a contradiction in terms if a group that was working for new ideas of peace and working to change the old methods of networking would try to put off creating a Multicultural Sweat Equity System for members of various social classes. Putting things off was the old way, and we have come together to create a new way, for peace activists to live together, work together and promote worldwide peace together. This description of the SP point system was created with the intent that people will embrace a new form of networking with those dedicated to truly creating a world of peace.