

Extract from: Gilly Salmon (2000). E-moderating: The Key to Teaching and Learning Online. Taylor & Francis Books Ltd: London, p156.

### **The differences between summarizing and weaving?**

Summarizing is rather like reproducing the material in shortened form, picking out the main points. The original meanings are not removed.

Weaving is a more creative task that selects themes and rearranges them into a new statement, making connections that may not have been intended by the writers.

Compare with lots of woollen threads. A summary might say 'there are five red ones, five white ones and five blue ones and two of other colours.' A weave might say 'I have made a small flag out of coloured wool, including some that I had left over from another project!'

So to summarize, the summary shortens, the weave selects and adds to, and the insight may be that the e-moderator weaves when he or she selects some themes from the participants and relates these to things that he or she is aware of.

You can also undertake 'mini-weaves' more like a ribbon rather than a flag!

What about the shorter, quicker, more direct weaving which draws out a theme or implication on the hoof perhaps from a short run of messages – sometimes only three or four? The e-moderator can spot and draw out an implication or make an observation and hold it up for inspection and invite comments.

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