Remaining Childless: No Bundles of Joy

Some couples are choosing not to have children, leaving themselves free to devote their time, energy, and money to pursuing their own interests and careers. A few studies indicate that such couples are happier and find their marriages more satisfying than couples with children (Campbell, 1975). However, this same sense of satisfaction may not continue into middle and old age, when couples may wonder if their decision to remain childless was a good one. A 1990 Gallup poll found that only about 4 percent of Americans are “anti-children”—that is, they don’t have any, they don’t want any, or they are glad they never had any children {Gallup and Newport, 1990c}. In spite of the tremendous emotional and financial investment children require, most parents find their children provide a major source of satisfaction and meaning in their lives and that the investment has been a good one.

---Samuel Wood and Ellen Green Wood

First: highlight and/or cross out:

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**Step Two: Take what is left and make new sentences from similar ideas that connect to each other.**

Some couples are choosing not to have children… pursuing their own interests and careers.

(Some couples chose not to have children and want to pursue their own interests and careers.)

Happier… marriages

(These couples often have happier marriages than those without children.)

may not continue into middle and old age… wonder if their decision to remain childless was a good one.

(But their happiness may not continue when they get older and wonder if their decision to be childless was a good one.)

In spite of… emotional and financial investment… most parents find… children provide…meaning in their lives…investment has been a good one.

(Even though there are emotional and financial costs to have children, most parents get meaning in their lives from having kids.)

Step 3: Clean it up and reduce even more! Connect your new sentences and make changes to make your summary make sense. It should be shorter than the original.

Some couples chose not to have children and want to pursue their own interests and careers. These couples often have happier marriages than those without children, but their happiness may not continue when they get older and wonder if their decision was a good one. There are emotional and financial costs to having children, but most parents get satisfaction and meaning from having kids.