

RHETORICAL PRÉCIS

A rhetorical précis differs from a summary in that it is more of an analytical condensation of both the content and method of the original text. It's a brief description both of what the text says and does. Although less common than a summary, a rhetorical précis is a particularly useful way to sum up your understanding of how a text works rhetorically.

SENTENCE TEMPLATE

_____ in the _____, _____,
(Author) (A) (Title)

_____ that _____
(B) (main claim or thesis)

_____ supports his/her _____ by first _____
(author's last name) (B) (C) + (describe what author does)

He/she then _____
(C) + (describe what author does next to support claim)

Lastly, the author _____
(C) + (describe what author does last to support claim)

_____ 's purpose is to _____
(author's last name) (D) + (author's purpose)

_____ in order to/so that _____

The author writes in a/an _____ tone for _____
(E) (audience)

This work is significant because _____
(what did you learn from it/what impact has it had)

WORD BANK – SOME POSSIBILITIES

A	B	C	D	E
Article	Argues / argument	Compares / Contrasts	Show	Formal
Book	Asserts / assertion	Explains	Point out	Informal
Review	Suggests /	Illustrates	Suggest	Sarcastic
Essay	suggestion	Demonstrates	Inform	Humorous
Column	Claims / questions	Defines	Persuade	Condescending
Editorial	Explains	Describes	Convince	Contemptuous
Speech	/Explanation	Lists		Passionate
Story		Explores		Serious
		Challenges		Lighthearted
		Investigates		
		Analyzes		
		Cites		