

# 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 / suggestion	Illustrates	Suggest	Sarcastic
Essay	Claims / questions	Demonstrates	Inform	Humorous
Column	Explains	Defines	Persuade	Condescending
Editorial	/Explanation	Describes	Convince	Contemptuous
Speech		Lists		Passionate
Story		Explores		Serious
		Challenges		Lighthearted
		Investigates		
		Analyzes		
		Cites		