

Name : _____

Period: _____



RHETORICAL PRÉCIS Template



A rhetorical précis is like a summary in that it is a brief representation of what the text says **WRITTEN IN YOUR OWN WORDS**; however, a rhetorical précis not only details **WHAT THE TEXT SAYS** but also describes **WHAT THE TEXT DOES**. Ultimately, a rhetorical précis demonstrates your comprehension and understanding of the text.

① _____, in his/her/its
(author's credentials - optional) (AUTHOR's first and last name)

_____,
(GENRE) (TITLE - underlined/italicized or in quotation marks)

_____ that _____
(A) (MAIN IDEA/claim/thesis statement of the text)

② He/she/it develops his/her/its claim by first _____ ing
(B)

_____, then _____ ing _____
(B)

_____, and finally
_____ ing _____
(B)

③ _____'s purpose is _____
(author's last name) (C)

_____ in order to _____
(To achieve what?)

④ He/she/it establishes a(n) _____ tone for
(D)

_____, especially _____
(Who is the AUDIENCE? Be specific.) (Who needs this message most?)

Genre	A	B	C	D
Sentence 1	Sentence 1	Sentence 2 -ing verbs	Sentence 3 Purpose Words	Sentence 4 Tone Words
article book editorial essay novel poem satire short story speech	addresses argues asserts claims explains discusses implies reveals stresses suggests	alluding to attributing comparing clarifying concluding criticizing declaring demanding demonstrating defending defining describing detailing debating emphasizing encouraging explaining exaggerating exclaiming flattering generalizing hypothesizing interpreting illustrating insisting insulting introducing justifying juxtaposing listing narrating offering proving providing anecdotes providing examples providing statistics questioning quoting referring to repeating requesting saying showing stating summarizing telling threatening theorizing warning	to analyze to bring about change to convince to criticize to entertain to examine to give advice to inform to motivate to persuade to prove to recommend to research to warn	abrasive accusatory ambivalent (uncertain) apologetic appreciative annoyed bitter bleak (dark, depressing) commanding colloquial (conversational) comedic concerned critical (pointing out problems) curious demanding desperate defensive defiant direct disappointed educational encouraging enthusiastic formal frustrated hopeful humorous informal infuriated inspirational ironic irreverent judgmental lighthearted matter-of-fact (unemotional) mimicking negative neutral nostalgic objective open-minded optimistic (positive) outraged pessimistic (negative) playful polite practical reassuring rude sarcastic satirical sensible sentimental Skeptical (disbelieving) sincere straightforward sympathetic urgent

Rubric for Rhetorical Précis

4	Written construction meets or exceeds all aspects of the four-sentence précis writing formula. Sentences are clear, specific, and sophisticated with complex integration of key information.	Standard Exceeded
3	Written construction meets all aspects of the four-sentence précis writing formula. Sentences are clear, but lack specificity and sophistication. Most key information is included.	Standard Met
2	Written construction makes an attempt to integrate the four-sentence précis writing formula. Although key words are present, the précis lacks content, development, or specificity or the précis is too repetitive.	Standard Nearly Met
1	Written construction fails to use the four-sentence précis writing formula. Sentences are disjointed and/or lack direction and inclusion of key elements.	Standard Not Met
P	Plagiarized. Fails to uphold academic integrity.	Ungradable

- Sentence 1** Name of **author, genre, and title** of work; a **rhetorically accurate verb** (**argues, suggests, implies**) followed by a **THAT** statement containing the main idea (claim or thesis) of the work. who? & what?
- Sentence 2** An explanation of how the author **develops** or **supports** the claim from sentence 1, in chronological order (maintaining parallel structure with **-ing verbs**). how?
- Sentence 3** A statement of the author's **purpose**, followed by an **"in order to"** phrase to indicate what the author hopes to achieve. why?
- Sentence 4** A description of the author's **tone** and who is the intended **audience**. for whom?