

## Five Sentence Rhetorical Précis-based Annotation

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ **in**  
(author's first and last name) (author's credentials)

**his/her** \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
(genre: article, essay, short story, editorial, sermon, etc.) (title of text appropriately punctuated underlined or in quotation marks)

**argues (or suggests, implies, claims, notes) that** \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(major assertion/thesis statement of author's text)

**He/she supports (or develops) his/her claim by first**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(comparing, narrating, illustrating, defining, etc.)

**then** \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
**then** \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
**and finally** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **'s purpose is to** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Author's last name) (persuade, criticize, explain, entertain, inform, describe, prove, convince, bring about change, recommend, warn, etc.)

**in order to** \_\_\_\_\_  
(to accomplish what? )

**He/she** \_\_\_\_\_ **a(n)** \_\_\_\_\_ **tone**  
(verb: adopts, establishes, creates, etc.) (informative, infuriated, thoughtful, hopeful, serious, sarcastic...)

**for** \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(intended audience)

**The information in** \_\_\_\_\_ **'s** \_\_\_\_\_ **is/is not**  
(author's last name) (genre: article, essay, short story, editorial, sermon, etc.)

**useful to my research because** \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(briefly but specifically explain why--this could be content-related and/or source-related).

### Example:

In the introduction to his book *The Nature of Prejudice* (1954), Gordon Allport, a Harvard psychologist, suggests that we need a better, more comprehensive, working definition of the word prejudice. He gives readers a list of apparent instances of prejudices in the opening passage, and, in the second half of the piece, he discusses various existing definitions of prejudice, each one a little more complex than the one before. Allport wrote this piece in order for readers to have a definitive definition of the word prejudice. His audience appears to be anyone who would be concerned about prejudice in society and/or in themselves. The information in the introduction is useful to my research because it includes a clear definition and specific support for the point I am working to prove, although I will need to consult other sources to present a balanced perspective.

from: Mrs. Michelson's website: <http://www.mrsmichelson.com/how-to-write-a-rhetorical-precis.html>