**The Rhetorical Précis Format**

**a)** In a single coherent sentence give the following:   
-name of the author, title of the work, date in parenthesis;   
-a rhetorically accurate verb (such as "assert," "argue," "deny," "refute," "prove," disprove," "explain," etc.);   
-a ***that*** clause containing the major claim (thesis statement) of the work.

**b)** In a single coherent sentence give an explanation of how the author develops and supports the major claim (thesis statement).

**c)** In a single coherent sentence give a statement of the author's purpose, followed by an "in order" phrase.

**d)** In a single coherent sentence give a description of the intended audience and/or the relationship the author establishes with the audience.

Example of a Rhetorical Précis:   
  
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.