This guide is designed to help you look for and collect information from a reading that is directly applicable to writing a rhetorical précis about the piece. This is a tool not a rule. Use it in any way that helps your reading and writing. Do not limit your reading according to this format (the other side of the page is a blank slate awaiting your personal input). But do make use of the rubric provided here to make your reading and writing easier to perform.

Author - who wrote it? ____________________________

Title - what is it called? ____________________________

Date - when was it written or published? ____________________________

Thesis - what is the author’s major claim or idea in this work? ____________________________

Purpose - what is the author’s main objective in creating this work; why did s/he write it? ____________________________

Effect - what effect or impact does the author want to have on the reader? ____________________________

Audience - what readers is the work intended for? ____________________________

Comments and notes: ____________________________

Jon Dorbolo, 2003