

Rhetorical Precis

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Good Food/Bad Food

Open a blank
Google Document
& Title it
“Rhetorical
Precis”

**In proper MLA Format,
include your name, my
name, class name, & the
date**

Open your Reader
to the article
titled, “Bad
Food?”

Rhetorical Précis & Assignment Directions

A **rhetorical précis** analyzes both the content (the what) and the delivery (the how) of a unit of spoken or written discourse. It is a highly structured four-sentence paragraph blending summary and analysis. Each of the four sentences requires specific information.

Use the article with your annotations to help you write a rhetorical précis of Bittman's article, "Bad Food? Tax It, and Subsidize Vegetables." Be sure to paraphrase what Bittman says in your own words; do not quote.

Find It!

Take a few minutes and locate the following information: (you can jot it anywhere on your Google Document. We will eventually formulate the information into a clear sentence).

- The author
- Genre & Title of the work
- Publication Date

Sentence #1

Using the information you just located, write a sentence that includes the following information:

Sentence 1: Note the name of the author, the genre and title of the work, and publication date in parentheses; a rhetorically accurate verb, and a that clause containing the major assertion or thesis statement of the work.

Example Sentence #1

Mark Bittman, in an article in the New York Times (July 23, 2011) entitled “Bad Food? Tax It and Subsidize Vegetables,” proposes that we begin to tax junk food and use the income for a program to encourage healthy eating by making nutritious food cheaper and easier to buy.

Sentence #2

Sentence 2: An explanation of how the author develops and supports the thesis following the order of the article.

*Remember, this should be written in your own words.

Sentence #3

A statement of the author's apparent purpose, followed by an "in order to" phrase.

Example Sentence #3

He hopes to persuade the American people to take action against those who produce and market unhealthy food in order to reduce obesity and the diseases that come with it.

Sentence #4

Sentence 4: A description of the intended audience, the relationship the author establishes with the audience, or both.