

TO DO

Title:

Your title needs to identify: (i) **the text** you are interpreting, (ii) **the theme** you are focusing on, (iii) and—most importantly—**what you claim** about the theme. It could also be attention grabbing and funny, but if it clearly describes the above three things, then it has served its role. Also, it should be properly formatted (e.g., titles are either in italics or quotation marks), preferably in MLA.

Abstract:

As with the title, your abstract also needs to specify three things: (i) the **background** to your theme, (ii) your **aim** (do double-check that it is clearly connected to your title), and (iii) the **significance** of your topic by explaining why it is important to discuss the theme in the text and perhaps how it is linked to current events. It should be written in **formal English** and should amount to **one paragraph**.

Your research was guided by a question. Your abstract is the embodiment of your answer, which you will present to the committee. Since it is a written statement of what you will talk about and not your presentation itself, **it should not include:**

- rhetorical questions,
- detailed retelling of the plot,
- lengthy quotations from the text,
- or paraphrasing of textual evidence.

Only paraphrasing can be left for your presentation. Ideally, **references to what the paraphrased authors think should also not be present**. But, unlike with most of the previous examples, these have a vital place in your presentation. Your abstract only focuses on your line of argument and moves forward by describing the background, your aim, and your conclusion.

Annotated sources:

Your task here is to **paraphrase the main ideas of the article** (in three to five sentences) and **avoid quoting the authors** (doing so has the benefit of understanding the ideas better). Identify explicitly **how you connect their ideas to your aim**, which you describe in your abstract. Ideally, the articles pushed you to reconsider your own position. If that is the case, do describe the change. Also, devoting the same number of sentences to each source is ideal (writing nine sentences about the first source, five about the second, and two about the third sends the wrong kind of message). A paraphrase of **one article** should also amount to **one paragraph** (of, approximately, the same length as your abstract).