

World Literature

Fact-Sheet
2010-2011

Name _____

Date _____

Period _____

KGSmith, Instructor

Internationale: ***The Précis Paper***

Précis: A summary or abstract, especial of a text or speech.

Oxford English Reference Dictionary, 2003.

While there are a goodly number of topics that a *World Literature* course could, and should, examine, there is probably no greater current need than the enhancement of students' global consciousness and competency. It is towards the attainment of this goal that the following assignment has been developed.

The Précis Paper project asks you to research, study, synthesize, and report specific aspects of one of the nations of the world. Its goal is not length or even depth – rather, its goal is to promote understanding and practicality.

Imagine that your intended audience is a businessperson needing to travel abroad. Unfamiliar with his/her destination, our businessperson needs a brief, but thorough, document to provide the information needed for success. Based upon the information provided by the *Précis Paper* project, such a traveler should be able to successfully negotiate the nation under question with a minimum of undue stress and concern.

Here's how it all works:

1. Early on in First Semester, the student will select his/her nation of study. No student shall replicate a nation chosen by another student.
2. Once selected, the student's choice is locked. It may not be modified, traded, or returned.
3. The student will then enter the research phase of the process. Research areas may include, but are not limited to, each of the following:
 - a. The nation's location and geographic regions
 - b. Economic issues (currency, exports, imports, etc.)
 - c. Major cities, unique populations, and cultural landmarks
 - d. National history and historical figures of note
 - e. Current cultural icons and personalities of importance
 - f. Popular sports and athletes, entertainers and "entertainments"
 - g. Cultural emphases and social rules of etiquette
 - h. National cultural quirks and unusual behaviors
 - i. Weather conditions and clothing requirements for the time of travel
 - j. Literary styles, literary pieces, and writers of importance
 - k. Visa requirements and policies for entry into the nation
 - l. Specific flight information for the "trip" (airline, flight departure time, etc.)
 - m. Where to stay "in-country" (the specific hotel and its amenities)
 - n. A specific itinerary for a ten-day stay
4. The student will synthesize the most essential information into easily digestible sections (*Geography, Cultural Etiquette, Historical Background, etc.*) and present it in a personally-written, paragraph-style fashion. No "cut and paste" sections or graphs from Internet sites, please!

5. Internal citations for specific information will be expected. Additionally, a proper Works Cited page must be in evidence, too.
6. A photocopy of each source's title page (or first page, for an internet site) must be included.
7. Photographs and diagrams may be included to amplify information given - but remember, this is a paper, **not** a travel brochure.
8. The *Précis Paper* project shall be typed/word-processed; its body shall be **between 10-15 pages in length**.
9. The project shall be submitted in a clear, plastic presentation folder.

The Précis Paper is due: 3 December 2010

I am sure that, as *the Précis Paper* project unfolds for you, unforeseen concerns will make themselves known. It is my intention to deal with each in a timely and equitable fashion. If you come up against such a snag in your research or in the presentation of this project, please let me know as quickly as you can. Chances are that others are confronting the same problems - or will confront them when they reach your level of workmanship!

I can't wait to "travel" with you!
Kevin G. Smith
Instructor