

Abstract Expectations

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Documenting Your Essay Planning

Students may be expected to submit an abstract in advance of major take-home assignments. The abstract should be a snapshot of the final assignment the student expects the instructor to grade. It should have the readability of a résumé and may not exceed one page in length.

The abstract should include...

1. The topic. This must include an indication of any fundamental choices the student has made when planning their final submission. (For example, the assignment may require the student to choose between a number of prompts, lenses, topics, motifs, etc.)
2. A working version of the planned thesis or agenda for the final submission. This should be limited to one or two sentences.
3. The planned outline for the final submission. This would include a rough draft of the topic sentences for each planned paragraph.
4. Prospective sources. The student should indicate passages that might be used for concrete examples or quoted as textual evidence.

Students should consult the individual assignment for any additional expectations.

If typed, the abstract must be double-spaced, with one-inch margins all around. Please use a 12-point, Times New Roman font.