No Exit, one-act philosophical drama by Jean-Paul Sartre, performed in 1944 and published in 1945. Its original, French title, Huis clos, is sometimes also translated as In Camera or Dead End. The novel stemmed from his belief that "existence precedes essence." Five years later, Sartre published Being and Nothingness (1943), arguably his most famous work. In the book, Sartre sets human consciousness, or nothingness, in opposition to being, or thingness. No Exit is widely regarded as the literary expression of another Sartrean work, Being and Nothingness, published the same year. Sartre deliberately wrote No Exit as a one-act play so that theatergoers would not be kept past the German-imposed curfew. Many forms of entertainment, including plays, had to be approved by German censors. During rehearsals, clearance to perform the play was given and taken away several times before the first performance in May 1944 just before liberation of Paris. No Exit study guide contains a biography of Jean-Paul Sartre, quiz questions, major themes, characters, and a full summary and analysis. About No Exit No Exit Summary Character List Glossary Themes No Exit Summary and Analysis No Exit and the Legacy of the Second Empire Related Links Essay Questions Quiz 1 Quiz 2 Quiz 3 Quiz 4 Citations. No Exit Summary and Analysis of No Exit. Buy Study Guide. Summary. No Exit (French: Huis clos, pronounced [ɛ̃ klo]) is a 1944 existentialist French play by Jean-Paul Sartre. The original title is the French equivalent of the legal term in camera, referring to a private discussion behind closed doors. The play was first performed at the Théâtre du Vieux-Colombier in May 1944. The play begins with three characters who find themselves waiting in a mysterious room.