

## *The Existential Role of Others*

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What role do other people have in how we define ourselves? Using the existential groundwork of Sartre's Existentialism is a Humanism, this presentation will examine two different existential texts' representations of other individuals in how one defines their essence. I will argue for the necessity of The Other in evaluating Sartre's existential slogan: "existence precedes essence". Fyodor Dostoevsky's Notes from the Underground utilizes two different characters, foil Zverkov and prostitute Liza, to distinguish The Other as both contrast and meaning to how one defines their essence. Simone De Beauvoir's The Second Sex uses the history of men's dominance over women to show how men can be of hindrance to how women define their essences; in opposition, De Beauvoir also explains how men have the potential to bolster and support women's ability to define their essences. This presentation will explain the role of other people in how one defines themselves, and its necessity when evaluating Sartre's existential slogan.