

How to Write a Book Review

A. Introduction

1. Start with something catchy that draws your readers in
2. Classify the book giving its scope and its world/s
3. State the thesis of the book
4. State your thesis about the book

B. Body

1. Summary of Content
 - a. Give a brief breakdown of the chapters/sections (a and b may be combined)
 - b. Give the author's main contentions/points and briefly discuss them.
 - c. Explain why you classified it as you did in point A2
 - d. Be aware of your audience when making this summary.
2. Analysis and Evaluation
 - a. Move through this section dealing with single aspects of your analysis and evaluation at a time (keep direct quotes to a minimum)
 - b. Enter your objections for the first time in this section (only principle objections and important errors) giving brief but solid reasoning for your critiques (try not to let the negative out way the positive, this can be hard if you greatly disagreed with the book or if it wasn't argued well)
 - c. How has your concept of this field been challenged?
 - d. What other work must the author do to clear up doubtful points?
 - e. Where has author left gaps that should be filled?

C. Conclusion

1. Sum up and restate your thesis
2. Summarize the strengths and weakness of the book (be honest but be kind)
3. End with one or two sentences about the author (give the author the last word)