

Steps for Writing a Good Book Review

Introduce the subject, scope, and type of book

Identify the book by **author**, **title**, and sometimes **publishing information**.

Specify the **type** of book (for example, fiction, nonfiction, biography, autobiography). Help your readers to review with perspective.

Mention the book's **theme**.

Sometimes you will need to include **background** to enable reader(s) to place the book into a specific context. For example, you might want to describe the general problem the book addresses or earlier work the author or others have done.

Briefly summarize the content

For a nonfiction book, provide an overview, including paraphrases and quotations, of the book's thesis and primary supporting points.

For a work of fiction, briefly review the story line for readers, being careful not to give away anything that would lessen the suspense for readers.

Provide your reactions to the book

Describe the book: Is it interesting, memorable, entertaining, instructive? Why?

Respond to the author's opinions: What do you agree with? And why? What do you disagree with? And why?

Explore issues the book raises: What possibilities does the book suggest? Explain. What matters does the book leave out? Explain.

Relate your argument to other books or authors: Support your argument for or against the author's opinions by bringing in other authors you agree with.

Relate the book to larger issues: How did the book affect you? How have your opinions about the topic changed? How is the book related to your own course or personal agenda.

Conclude by summarizing your ideas

Close with a direct comment on the book, and tie together issues raised in the review. Briefly restate your main points and your thesis statement if your teacher requires it. If you like, you can offer advice for potential readers.