



## **How to Write Book Reviews**

### **Steps to follow**

1. Choose the book.
2. Read the book.
3. Make notes about the book.
4. Think about the content of the book in an effort to arrive at an appropriate theme for the review.
5. Organize your notes into an outline which incorporates your theme.
6. Write the review.
7. Edit and revise the review before recopying it.

### **What to Put in a Book Review**

#### **You should identify the book by giving:**

- the author
- the full title
- the publisher
- the place and date of publication
- the edition

#### **You might use some or all of the following approaches in your review:**

- outline the contents of the book
- evaluate and make critical comments on the book
- use quotations or references to the new ideas in the book to illustrate your theme
- identify the author's qualifications, and any other personal information that is relevant to your discussion of the book
- place the book with reference to the author's other writings
- compare the book with a similar work by a contemporary
- point out the author's intentions, including the audience for which the book is intended
- relate the work to a social or literary trend

## What to leave out of a book review [

### Usually a book review does not include:

- footnotes
- a bibliography
- long quotations from the book or other reviews
- information about the author's life that is not related to the theme of the review

### Reminders

- There is no right way to write a book review. Book reviews are highly personal and reflect the opinions of the reviewer.
- A review can be as short as 50-100 words, or as long as 1500 words, depending on the purpose of the review.
- Before writing the review, be sure that you understand what type of review is required for your assignment.
- Keep your audience in mind! This will help define the emphasis you put on various parts of the review.