



HOW TO WRITE A BOOK REPORT

The reviewer should include what they feel is appropriate for explaining their assessment of the book under review. In doing so reviews generally include the following kinds of information.

1. A heading that includes all the bibliographic information about the book.
 - A. Title.
 - B. Author.
 - C. Place of publication: publisher, date of publication.
 - D. Number of pages.
 1. Example: Studies in Romans, Tom Wacaster, Pulaski, TN, Sain Publishers, 2005. 655 pp.
2. The review itself usually begins with an introduction that lets the reader know what the review will say.
 - A. The first paragraph usually includes the author and title again, so readers don't have to look up to find the title.
3. In the review you should include a very brief overview of the contents of the book, the purpose or audience for the book, and your reaction and evaluation.
4. Reviews then generally move into a section of background information that helps place the book in context and discuss criteria for judging the book.
5. Finally, reviewers get to the heart of their writing--their evaluation of the book.
 - A. In this section, reviewers discuss a variety of issues:
 1. How well the book has achieved its goal,
 2. What possibilities are suggested by the book,
 3. What the book has left out,
 4. How the book compares to others on the subject,
 5. What specific points are not convincing, and
 6. What personal experiences you've had related to the subject.
 - A. It is important to carefully distinguish your views from the author's, so that you don't confuse your reader.
6. As with other essays, book reviews usually end with a conclusion, which ties together issues raised in the review and provides a concise comment on the book.
7. There is no set formula, but a general rule of thumb is that the first one-half to two-thirds of the review should summarize the author's main ideas and at least one-third should evaluate the book.