

How to Write a Book Report/Review

Reading the Assignment:

1. Identify what the instructor wants you to do with the book:
 - a. consider it in relation to other readings?
 - b. in relation to his or her lectures?
 - c. in the total context of the course?

Reading the Book:

1. Read the book through once to get a general understanding of the plot, characters, and organization.
2. Read the book again—make notes on the plot, characters, and setting; highlight or mark specific passages you may want to use in your report.
3. Summarize chapters briefly to help you remember the material.

Writing the Report:

1. Establish your audience. Are you writing for your instructor or your classmates? Your audience will influence how much and what kinds of information you include in your report.
2. Your introduction should include important bibliographical information—the title of the book, the author's name, the book's publisher, the date of publication, and a brief summary of the book. You may want to use a quote that you feel illustrates the main point of the book.
3. The body of the report should answer the following questions:
 - a. What was the author trying to do?
 - b. How well did he or she do it?
 - c. Was it worth doing?
4. The conclusion should include your personal opinion of the book. Did you enjoy it? Would you recommend it to another reader? Why or why not? Give examples to support your opinion.