

Book Review Format and Sample

Introduction

Here you want to provide basic information about the book, and a sense of what your report will be about. You should include:

1. Title (underlined)/Author
2. Publication Information: Publisher, year, number of pages
3. Genre
4. A brief (1-2 sentences) introduction to the book and the report/review.

Body

There are two main sections for this part. The first is an explanation of what the book is about. The second is your opinion about the book and how successful it is. There are some differences between reports on fiction or other imaginative writing and reports on non-fiction books. But for both, a good place to start is to explain the author's purpose and/or the main themes of the book. Then you can summarize.

For fiction or other creative writing:

Provide brief descriptions of the setting, the point of view (who tells the story), the protagonist and other major characters. If there is a distinct mood or tone, discuss that as well. Give a concise plot summary. Along with the sequence of major events, you may want to discuss the book's climax and resolution, and/or literary devices such as foreshadowing. But, if you are writing a review, be careful not to give away important plot details or the ending.

For nonfiction:

Provide a general overview of the author's topic, main points and argument. What is the thesis? What are the important conclusions? Don't try to summarize each chapter or every angle. Choose the ones that are most significant and interesting to you.

Analysis and Evaluation

In this section you analyze or critique the book. You can write about your own opinions; just be sure that you explain and support them with examples. Some questions you might want to consider:

- Did the author achieve his or her purpose?
- Is the writing effective?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the book?
- For nonfiction, what are the author's qualifications to write about the subject? Do you agree with the author's arguments and conclusions?
- What is your overall response to the book? Did you find it interesting, moving, dull?
- Would you recommend it to others? Why or why not?

Conclusion

Briefly conclude by pulling your thoughts together. You may want to say what impression the book left you with, or emphasize what you want your reader to know about it.

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Sample book review:

After reading many of her short stories and her first book, “The Tropics,” I became permanently hooked on author Mary Deal.

Having waited for months for her new book, “The Ka,” to be published, I was thrilled to get my hands on it and start reading! “The Ka” is a masterful blend of fantasy, mystery and suspense, with liberal dashes of humor and generous pinches of wit, bound together by a stirring romance that not only transcends time, but forever binds present to past.

Using the backdrop of both ancient and modern day Egypt, each page grabs you and propels you to the next. Brimming with rich, historically accurate details, Ms. Deal’s vibrant characters, spontaneous dialogue and vivid scenery makes this a book you will not be able to put down!

Follow the intuitions of archaeology student, Chione Ini-Herit, as she and her former love interest, Aaron Ashby, along with the California Institute of Archaeology team travel through this spellbinding novel toward destiny and wisdom, transformation and fulfillment to the exciting conclusion that will leave you satisfied and wanting more.

Bravo Mary! I’m looking forward to your next book!