

Book Review Guidelines

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The following guidelines should be used as a way to guide you in your critical book review. Remember that the bulk of your review should focus on criticizing the author, not simply telling readers what the book already did. Save the praise for the publishers.

A. Briefly introduce:

1. The author's experience, qualifications and any related writing that the author has done on the subject. (If the author has written about this subject before, what is new in this book?)
2. How this book relates to other books on the same/similar topic (related literature from other writers)

B. Briefly summarize:

1. The author's viewpoint's and purpose for writing the book
2. The author's main points and supporting evidence

C. Thoroughly explore:

1. The merit of the author's thesis and supporting arguments, as well as the strength of the evidence used to support the claims. Why do you agree/disagree with the author? Use other literature (articles, reviews, other books, etc.) to support your rationale.
2. The author's use of facts, historical events, significant people. Look closely for factual omissions, writer biases or a misrepresentation of facts in the book.