

Writing a Good Book Report

Directions: Your book report must be handwritten in ink on lined notebook paper using appropriate indentation, margins and Standard English. Your grade will be determined using the following guidelines (accuracy 33%, neatness 33% and completeness 34%.)

I. Introduce the subject, scope, and type of book.

Identify the book by **author, title, and publishing information.**

Specify the **type** of book (for example, fiction, nonfiction, biography, autobiography). Help your readers to review with perspective.

Discuss the book's **theme, tone(s) / overall mood.**

Sometimes you will need to include **background** to enable reader(s) to place the book into a specific context. For example, you might want to describe the general problem the book addresses or earlier work the author or others have done.

II. Summarize the content from a rhetorical point of view; do NOT just provide a summary of the plot.

For a nonfiction book, provide an overview, including paraphrases and quotations, of the book's thesis and primary supporting points.

For a work of fiction, review the story line for readers by describing the setting, the character development, the plot, the climax, the denouement, and the conclusion, being careful not to give away anything that would lessen the suspense for readers.

III. Provide your reactions to the book.

Describe the book: Is it interesting, memorable, entertaining, and / or instructive?

What are the major rhetorical strategies at play in the work? Give textual support for your observations.
THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART!!!

Respond to the author's opinions / characters' actions: What do you agree with? And why? What do you disagree with? And why? Relate to several specific incidents.

Explore issues the book raises: What possibilities does the book suggest? Explain. What matters does the book leave out? Explain.

Relate your argument to other books or authors: Support your argument for or against the author's opinions / characters' actions by bringing in prior experiences / knowledge.

Relate the book to larger issues: How did the book affect you? How have your opinions about the topic changed?

IV. Conclude by summarizing your ideas

Close with a direct comment on the book, and tie together issues raised in your review. Briefly restate your main points and your thesis statement. If you like, you can offer advice for potential readers. Remember, I do not want a summary of the plot.