



DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Book Review

Begin with information about the author.

- Education
- Nationality
- Time-span of author's career
- Professional Status
- Honors and/or recognitions

Summarize the subject and state the thesis.

- Subject – what the book is about (Be sure to include any important definitions here.)
- Thesis – the book's main idea or argument

Note: The thesis and subject of a book are two different things. For example, the subject of the book may be the life of Joseph Q. McGillucutty, but the thesis may be that he was a good leader but a bad husband. Look for the thesis in the "Introduction" or "Preface" of the book; most authors also repeat the thesis in the concluding chapter of the book.

Respond to the book with a personal opinion.

- What is the significance?
- How is it relevant to today?
- What was learned? What was enjoyable?
- What is the book's merit?
- Support response with specific details/reasons.

Conclude the Review

- Restate the author's purpose, including a personal opinion.
- Summarize the value of the book.
- End with reasons this book should be read or should not be read.

Suggestions for writing a Book Review:

- Before reading the entire book and writing the review:
 1. Read the first and last chapters. This will help in understanding the author's purposes and direction for the book, making it much easier to read. This will also help identify the thesis of the book.
 2. Skim the book. Read the table of contents, the first and last paragraphs of each chapter, and look at any illustrations/figures/photographs/charts. This will make remembering the main ideas and arguments easier when reading the entire book and writing review.
- Read the entire book – all the way through. Skipping a couple of pages could cause the analysis to be faulty.
- The first and last steps should be relatively short. The crux of the review will be the middle two steps: the summary and the evaluation. Normally, the first two steps will be about a half a page each.