

How to Write a Book Review - Template & Checklist

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Book Review Template

Tagline (1-2 sentences):

A catchy line summarizing the book's theme + your overall reaction.

Introduction (80-120 words):

- Book title, author, publication details
- Short context (genre, purpose, target audience)
- Your thesis (overall impression)

Summary (150-200 words):

- Brief overview of the plot or argument (up to 40-50% of book)
- No spoilers
- Focus on main themes, characters, or arguments

Analysis & Evaluation (300-500 words):

- What worked well (characters, themes, writing style, pacing, evidence)
- What didn't work (weaknesses, gaps, cliches)
- Use quotes as evidence
- Compare briefly with similar works

Conclusion (80-120 words):

- Restate overall opinion
- Suggest best audience for the book
- Closing line (memorable)

Book Review Self-Editing Checklist

1. Did I clearly state the book's title, author, and context?
2. Is my summary concise and spoiler-free?
3. Do I present a clear thesis/opinion (not just retelling)?
4. Did I support my claims with specific examples or quotes?
5. Have I balanced strengths and weaknesses?
6. Is my review written in present tense when describing the story?
7. Did I avoid filler words like 'interesting' or 'nice'?
8. Are my paragraphs short and scannable?
9. Did I proofread for grammar, spelling, and clarity?
10. Is my last line strong (leaves the reader with impact)?

Thank You for Using This Template!

We hope this template helps you write powerful book reviews.

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Happy Reviewing!