

Critical Book Review Guidelines

Requirements

1. Write a 3 - 5 page (750 - 1000 words) critical review. The presentation should be typed, double-spaced, using a readable 12 point font.
2. Include a title page.
3. Include a bibliography or works cited if resources other than the book under review is used.

The critical review should include the following:

Description

1. If the book is a critical text, identify the thesis; if it is not, identify the theme or general meaning of the book.
2. Describe the audience for which the book is intended.
3. Briefly and methodically summarize the books contents.
4. What does the author hope to accomplish with this book?

Technical Analysis (*Techniques by which the author selects, shapes and presents his/her materials.*)

1. Does the author have a bias? Does the author's bias (or lack of bias) enhance or detract from the presentation?
2. Observe style. Is it pedantic, dull, scholarly, popular, journalistic, etc.?
3. Level of scholarship. Does the author support his/her positions? Does he/she offer solid, well documented research? Is there a useful bibliography?

Critical Analysis

1. What is your response to the material? Did it convince you, compel you, challenge you, anger you, bore you, etc.? Explain and illustrate (from the book) your response.
2. Did the book accomplish what it set out to do?
3. Compare the book to others you have read with a similar thesis or theme.
4. Briefly summarize the book as if writing for someone who is deciding whether or not to read it. Is it worth their while?

Note: Do not let your presentation reveal sharp divisions between the different elements included - let it flow naturally from point to point.