

BOOK REVIEW CRITERIA

Evaluation criteria for Book Review Presentations

Presentation time: 20 mins for Each Group

Components of Book Review

- **Title**
- **Introduction / Beginning**
- **Summary/Body**
- **Evaluation**
- **Conclusion/Ending**

Criteria		
Title	Relates to the topic of the book	Marks
Introduction / Beginning	Tell the book's title and author ; give a very brief overview of the contents of the book, tell the author's purpose for writing the book;	10
Summary/ Body	Summarize the main idea that relates to the reviewer's opinion about the book; gives evidence, details, or examples from the book to support the main idea	10
Evaluation	Critical analysis of the book; strengths and weaknesses; use of sources; methodology; organization; presentation; and personal experiences related to the subject; Recommendation of the book to others	10
Conclusion/ Ending	Reviewer's opinion and what the reviewer wants readers to understand or know about the book	10
Presentation	Delivery Style, Eye Contact, Body language, speech and Volume.	10
	Total	50

Consider the elements you will need to include in your review:

- **Purpose:** A book review – why read one and why write one? A book review ‘is not a retelling’. Respond.
- **Author:** Who is the author? What else has s/he written? Has this author won any awards? What is the author’s typical style?
- **Genre:** What type of book is this: fiction, nonfiction, romance, poetry, youth fiction, etc.? Who is the intended audience for this work? What is the purpose of the work?
- **Title:** Where does the title fit in? How is it applied in the work? Does it adequately encapsulate the message of the text? Is it interesting? Yes, no, why?
- **Preface/Introduction/Table of Contents:** Does the author provide any revealing information about the text in the preface/introduction? Does a “guest author” provide the introduction? What judgments or preconceptions do the author and/or “guest author” provide? How is the book arranged: sections, chapters?

- **Characters:** Are there characters in the work? Who are the principal characters? How do they affect the story? Do you empathize with them?
- **Themes /Style:** What themes stand out? How do they contribute to the work? Are they effective or not? How would you describe this author's particular style? Is it accessible to all readers or just some?
- **Argument:** How is the work's argument set up? What support does the author give for her/findings? Does the work fulfill its purpose/support its argument?
- **Key Ideas:** What is the main idea of the work? What makes it good, different, or ground breaking?

- **Organize:** The purpose of the review is to critically evaluate the text, not just inform the readers about it. Leave plenty room for your evaluation by ensuring that your summary is brief. Determine what kind of balance to strike between your summary information and your evaluation.
- **Your Evaluation:** Choose one or a few points to discuss about the book. What worked well for you? How does this work compare with others by the same author or other books in the same genre? What major themes, or terms does the book introduce, and how effective are they? Did the book appeal to you on an emotional or logical way?
- **Conclusion:** You may point out 'shortcomings and failures', but be ready to understand author's perspective.
- Stick to precise language and a clear style.
- Don't hesitate to challenge a thesis, an approach, a point of view, an assumption, an argument.
- Would you recommend this book to another person?
- What type of person would like this book?
- **Things to Bear in Mind:**
 - Don't be intimidated by famous authors -- many have written mediocre books.
 - Don't review books by people you know, love, or hate.