

WRITING A BOOK REVIEW

Often students are asked to write book reports or book reviews. A book report is a simple summary of a book. These reports are, in effect, short abstracts. It is useful to write a report because the writer engages the book seriously, and the report itself provides an enduring record that may serve as a later note for research. A book review, however, is more complicated and demanding. Reviewers report on the content and evaluate the book, discussing matters such as the author's logic, style, evidence, conclusions, and organization. The reviewer may also compare the book with others whose authors have treated the same material.

When you are assigned a book review, following the steps listed below may help you organize your review.

1. Scan the book to get a broad idea of its subject and theme. Then go back and read the book thoroughly.

