

How to Write a Book Review

Nonfiction:

- summary of content, primarily using your own words, though short quotes or titles of chapters are fine if not overdone (1/2 to 2/3 of total)
- critique of content, both positive & negative (does the author communicate effectively? does the author adequately cover the subject matter? is the author's argument reasonable? how do the author's views compare with others who write on similar subjects? do you agree with the author's overall thesis? with the author's major and/or minor points that support the author's argument?), including technical matters & matters of form (typos, printing quality, images, factual errors, style [is it readable? is it aesthetically pleasing?]) (1/3 to 1/2 of total)

Fiction: similar to nonfiction, but more emphasis on style & aesthetics: what is the overall impact of the story on the reader? what message, if any, is the author trying to communicate? does the author communicate that message effectively? how effectively does the author use language? does the author hold the reader's attention?