

San Diego Miramar College Library / LRC

Writing a Book Review / Critique

GENERAL COMMENTS

A book review / critique does two main things:

- 1) It states the author's purpose;
- 2) It evaluates how well the author has succeeded.

A book review / critique is NOT a report or summary. A brief summary of what the book covers may be justified but should never be the major portion of your critique.

A CRITIQUE USUALLY INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING (but always check with your instructor for special instructions or if you are in doubt about any part of the assignment):

I. DESCRIPTIVE STATEMENT

- Information about the book such as the title, publisher, place of publication, and the publication date.
- Information about the author (Who is the person? What are the author's qualifications and background? What else has the author written?)
- General subject matter of the book.
- General social, historical, intellectual or other context for the book.

II. STATEMENT OF THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE / THESIS

- Who is the author's intended audience?
- Theme: What is the subject or topic?
- Thesis: What is the author trying to say or prove?

III. EVALUATION

Content

2. Validity: Are the facts given verifiable and/or documented?
3. Interest: Is the
4. Usefulness: Is the information useful?
5. Did the book raise questions it did not answer?

1. Objectivity: Is the author biased?

2. Clarity: Is the writing clear?

l written?

and how successful were they?

Your comparisons, comments, reactions and conclusions

For background information on your book, your author, other reviews of the book, tc., be sure to ask your reference librarian for assistance.