

Book Review Guidelines

In general, a book review should not be longer than 2 pages and contain the following sections with answers to the questions or statements raised:

1. Description

- What does the author want to communicate and how does (s)he go about it? Many details must be left out to give a pithy overview.
- How can I convey the author's main intent for those, who do not know the book?

2. Analysis

- How well has the author achieved his/her goals?
- Make comments on or quote¹ the strengths and weaknesses of the book (e.g., literary form, structure, logic, reasoning, language and presentation, comprehensibility, references, etc.).
- Are general observations supported by examples?

3. Evaluation

- What does this book achieve?
- In how far has the author influenced my outlook?
- What do I think about his/her thoughts and ideas?
- Has my personal attitude been challenged, confirmed, or enhanced?

4. Application

- Have the author's arguments and ideas influenced my personal life and ministry in my specific cultural situation?
- Would I recommend the book?

¹ Always give a page number in brackets, e.g., (p. 12). The quote should not end in a full stop because the full stop after the bracket takes its place.