

HOW TO WRITE A BOOK REVIEW: Nonfiction



Use these questions and prompts to prepare for your written book review.

- ◆ Did you enjoy specific nonfiction features?
- ◆ Discuss something terrific or unusual you learned from a sidebar, a photograph and caption, or a diary or journal entry.
- ◆ Was the writing interesting or boring? Was it hard for you to concentrate on the reading?
- ◆ Point out whether the author included stories or anecdotes to hold your interest. Briefly retell one of these.
- ◆ If the book or article is a list of facts, explain how you feel about this, and include whether it held your interest.
- ◆ Explain how the author used a story or a photograph to explain a tough concept.
- ◆ What new understandings about the topic did you develop?
- ◆ Discuss how your book or article gave you more information about the topic. Explain one or two things you learned.
- ◆ Explain one change you experienced in how you see and think about the topic.
- ◆ With biography or autobiography, did you connect with the person's experiences? What did you find fascinating about your subject's life and achievements?
- ◆ Explain what the person did that had an impact on history and/or the lives of other people.
- ◆ Explain why you admire or dislike this person. Discuss one to two characteristics of this person to help you respond.
- ◆ Show how other people affected and/or changed this person's life.
- ◆ Choose one key decision this person made and discuss how that decision affected the person's life.
- ◆ Were the photos or illustrations effective?
- ◆ Choose a photo or an illustration that you enjoyed, briefly describe it, and explain why it appealed to you. You might want to explain what you learned from it, or whether it showed you something you never saw before or could imagine.
- ◆ Did you make any personal connections with the photos or illustrations?

Robb, Laura (2006). *Writing Advantage, Level F*. Wilmington, MA: Great Source.