

## Book and Article Reviews

A book or article review is a combination of fact (textual content) and criticism (analysis of the content). Book or article reviews seek to **clarify** the type of text being reviewed, to **summarize** the text, and to **analyze** the text, assessing its merits.

### Clarification:

In reviews, normally the reader does not know details about the work being reviewed, so you must include an introduction to give context. Some questions to consider include:

- What is the genre of the work?
- Is the work fictional or research based? If it is a nonfiction work, is it autobiographical?
- When was the article or book published?
- If it is an article, what field of study does it belong to?



### Summary:

A summary is a concise statement — in your own words — of the text’s thesis, main points, and conclusions. This section should cover the key points of the work, but it does not include your opinion. In the summary, think about these aspects:

- What are the author’s main points?
- How does the author support those points?
- How does the author structure the text?

### Critical Analysis:

The analysis portion is the section in which you present your opinion about the book or article. Criticism should be as objective and professional as possible, judging the work on its merits rather than personal preferences. Any criticism must be backed up with supporting arguments or examples. When writing critical analysis, here are some questions to consider:

- Does the author adequately define key terms?
- Are the main points sufficiently supported?
- Should the main points be supported in a different way?
- How do other books or articles on the same topic compare to this work?
- Do you have personal experience that supports or conflicts with the text?
- Was the book or article worthwhile or informative to read?