

Publishers' Bindings Online, 1815-1930: The Art of Books
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Guideline for Book Reports
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Introduction

- Begin with a catchy quip or anecdote that catches the reader's attention.
- Provide the book title, publication date, and the main theme.
- What is your thesis about the book?

Summary of Content

- This should be a *brief* description of the story and its main characters. If the book is a collection of stories, tell how many stories it includes and discuss how the stories relate to each other. The analysis (below) is most important.

Analysis and Evaluation of the Book

- What was the author trying to do? (Was there a particular social theme or themes that he criticized? Was it subtle or blatant?)
- How well did he do it?
- Was it worth doing?
- Was the book humorous? In what way?
- Did you enjoy it?
- Would you recommend it to another reader?
- Give examples to support your opinion.
- Organize into paragraphs that deal with single aspects of your argument. (Organize by themes, not the book's chronology.)
- Avoid excessive quotation and give a specific page reference in parentheses when you do quote. (Remember that you can state many of the author's points in your own words.)

Conclusion

- Sum up or restate your thesis or make the final judgment regarding the book.
- You should not introduce new evidence for your argument in the conclusion.
- Balance the book's strengths and weaknesses in order to unify your evaluation. (Did the body of your review have three negative paragraphs and one favorable one? What do they all add up to?)