



# SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

(An Autonomous Institution)  
Coimbatore-35  
BOOK REVIEW WRITING



## What is a review?

A review is a critical evaluation of a text, event, object, or phenomenon. Reviews can consider books, articles, entire genres or fields of literature, architecture, art, fashion, restaurants, policies, exhibitions, performances, and many other forms. Above all, a review makes an argument. The most important element of a review is that it is a commentary, not merely a summary. It allows you to enter into dialogue and discussion with the work's creator and with other audiences. You can offer agreement or disagreement and identify where you find the work exemplary or deficient in its knowledge, judgments, or organization. You should clearly state your opinion of the work in question, and that statement will probably resemble other types of academic writing, with a thesis statement, supporting body paragraphs, and a conclusion.

## HOW TO WRITE A BOOK REVIEW.

*Your opinion is important—don't be afraid to voice it in a book review*

Writing a book review is not the same as writing a [book report](#) or a summary. A book review is a critical analysis of a published work that assesses the work's strengths and weaknesses. A prominent reviewer can have a major impact on a book's reception. Many authors strive to have their books reviewed by a professional because a published review (even a negative one) can be a great source of publicity.

## You aren't in high school anymore

A book review is *not a book report*. Resist the temptation to summarize the character, [plot](#), theme, and setting, which was probably the formula you used in your high school English classes. Your readers are not interested in having the book re-told to them, and are certainly not interested in having the ending spoiled.

To become a legitimate book reviewer, you need to be able to tell your readers whether the book you are reviewing is interesting, thorough, original, and worth spending money on (or at least borrowing from the library).

## **Preparing to write a review**

Before writing a book review, We recommend that you to ask yourself questions as you read. If the book is non-fiction, ask yourself, "Does the author have a clear argument that he or she is trying to prove? Is it original? Does he or she prove the argument successfully? Are the arguments sound? Is it well-researched and well-written? Does the author omit any information that would have been relevant?"

For a work of fiction, ask yourself, "Is this work original? Are the [characters](#) well-rounded and believable? Does the plot twist, turn, and thicken, or does it plod along? Does the book address universal themes? Is the dialogue realistic?"

Make notes about the author's writing style: Is it irreverent or dry? Fast-paced or excruciatingly detailed? These are all things that potential readers will want to know. As a reviewer, you must tell them.

## **Get to the point**

When you begin writing the review, think about what your thesis is. Will your review be favorable, or do you plan to advise your readers to spend their money elsewhere? Just like in a college paper, remember to make your thesis known in the first few lines of your review. This will help your reader focus and will provide you with an argument for your review.

## **Don't forget the details**

Briefly include some biographical information about the author at the beginning of your review. Is this his or her first book? If not, what types of books has he or she written before? How has his or her background qualified him or her to write about this particular subject? Also, be sure to include the book's complete title, the number of pages it has, its publisher, and its price.

Before launching into your nuanced and cerebral analysis, briefly tell the reader what the book is about, its genre, and who its intended audience is. Is the book designed for mass commercial appeal or for a select group of academic specialists? Providing this information at the beginning will let readers know if they're interested in reading the entire review.

## Support your argument with direct quotes

Just as you would in [academic writing](#), carefully select passages from the book you are reviewing to support your argument. These passages will help readers understand what you mean when you write that the book is a tender love story, a violent murder mystery, or a dull yawner. Since a book review is generally quite short (less than 1,000 words), we suggest selecting brief passages.

Try to use a natural, informal tone. A book review is not rocket science; you are simply communicating your impressions and opinions of an author's work. What's more, always remember to edit and proofread your review multiple times before publishing it. If you're going to rip a novel apart for being overly verbose and hard to follow, you'd better [triple check](#) to make sure your review is grammatically sound and succinct!

### Sample Book Review Writing: Life of Pi

#### About the Author:

Yann Martel, a renowned Canadian novelist celebrated for his imaginative and philosophical works, crafted "Life of Pi," a captivating tale that blends adventure, fantasy, and profound philosophical exploration.

#### 2. Book Plot Summary:

The story follows Piscine "Pi" Patel, a young Indian boy whose family's zoo embarks on a perilous journey to Canada. When their cargo ship sinks during a ferocious storm, Pi finds himself adrift in a lifeboat, an unlikely companion: Richard Parker, a fearsome Bengal tiger.

#### 3. Critical Aspects:

Martel masterfully weaves a narrative of survival, depicting Pi's extraordinary struggle against the relentless ocean, hunger, thirst, and the ever-present threat posed by the majestic yet dangerous tiger. The novel is a testament to the human spirit's incredible resilience. Vivid imagery and poetic descriptions of the ocean, the celestial bodies, and the intricate dance between Pi and Richard Parker immerse the reader in the protagonist's extraordinary journey.

#### 4. Critical Aspects:

Beyond the thrilling adventure, "Life of Pi" delves into profound philosophical questions about faith, belief, and the nature of reality. It explores the complex relationship between humans and the natural world, and the

enduring power of hope in the face of unimaginable adversity. Pi's journey of self-discovery and his evolving relationship with Richard Parker are central to the story's emotional impact.

### **5. Personal Opinion:**

"Life of Pi" is a truly remarkable and unforgettable reading experience. It is a book that challenges readers to question the nature of reality and the power of storytelling. While some may find the fantastical elements of the story to be somewhat unbelievable, the underlying message about the human spirit's capacity to endure and the search for meaning resonates deeply.

### **6. Conclusion:**

"Life of Pi" is a masterpiece of contemporary literature that will continue to captivate and inspire readers for generations to come.

