

Guidelines for a critical review of a book

Before submitting a book review, please make sure that your text observes the following guidelines. Reviews that do not comply with the *Nexus* style sheet will be returned for resubmission.

Purpose: to help readers decide whether or not they want to read the book.

How it is done: apart from offering an accurate description of the contents of the book, the review should be a reasoned attempt at assessing its relative value and scope with reference to similar works in the same field. Therefore, a bibliographical revision of previous publications and a balanced judgement of the true contribution of the book under review should be included.

Length: 1,000-2,000 words long.

Language: English or Spanish

Possible structure: introduction, body, conclusion.

Sample Outline for a Book Review

Details of the book: title, author(s), publisher, year, pages, ISBN.

I. Introductory paragraph(s)

- a) Optional. Identify the author(s)'s background and the publishers (e.g. if the book is part of a series).
- b) Summarize the main idea(s) or theme(s) of the book and area(s) of concern.
- c) Describe the trends in what has been published about the topic, or conflicts in theory, methodology, evidence, and conclusions; or gaps in research and scholarship; or a single problem or new perspective of immediate interest.
- d) Write your main argument, what you think of the book, your opinion why other people should read the book.

II. Body Paragraphs

- a) Summarize the main points of the book. Use quotes or paraphrases from the book to prove your points.
- b) Evaluate.

- Explain the writer's purpose for writing the book. Give your opinion on whether the writer achieved her / his purpose in writing the book.
- Criticise / praise the book.
- Explain to your reader if you think the book has thorough or inadequate information.
- Use quotes or paraphrases from the book to prove your points.

III. Conclusion

- a) Review the main points of your argument.
- b) Remind the reader of your thesis (whether or not you thought the book was good).

GENERAL STYLISTIC, STRUCTURAL AND FORMATTING GUIDELINES

Lo que hay en las *Guidelines* ahora. Revisado.