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Book Review - Structure

- Title and Introduction
- Body
 - a. Summary/Description
 - b. Evaluation/Arguments
- Conclusion
- References

- Rudyard Kipling
- Avid readers!!
- Have reading goals???
- How many have a 'need to write' book reviews?
- How many of you buy books? eBooks
- **Nature of the probationer**
- Average age 25 & believe Leaders are readers
- Why read?
- Requirement of probationers (assignments)
- Language skills
- Play multiple roles (I/I/D)
- Inspire others (Duty calls)

- How come I am here?
- What do I teach?
- What did I do for today's presentation?
(Articles/Y.T./PPT) average Y.T.
- Have I written/when/how many?
- How did I go about it?
Xerox/Highlighter/Chapter summary
- Did I read do's and don'ts
- Am I an expert? What do I hope?

- Distinguish Book report and Book review
- Are there prerequisites for a B.R.?
- ✓ Avid reader
- ✓ need to review
- ✓ getting down to it
- ✓ self confidence/ ability to write independently
- ✓ writing skills
- ✓ good vocabulary
- Opportunities Where & Why
- Business dailies/newspapers/website/
- WHY number of books/ on leadership
- Do YOU have an advantage?

- **Why do BR?**
- Source of revenue
- Source of recognition
- Source of intrinsic reward
- Evaluate your thinking with regard to the thinking of others.
- To better understand literature ideas in your field
- To provide information to someone who has not yet read the book
- To practice writing for an academic audience
- First step toward academic publishing

- What should a Book review do?
- Identify the author's purpose.
- Identify the author's thesis
- Identify the author's arguments.
- Evaluate the arguments.
- Conclusion. Who should read. How do they benefit.

- **Before reading, consider:**
- Title - What does it suggest?
- Preface or Introduction - Provides important information about the author's intentions or the scope of the book. Can you identify any limitations? Has the author ignored important aspects of the subject?
- Table of Contents - Shows how the book's organized -- main ideas, how they're developed (chronologically, topically, etc.)

- **Points to ponder as you read the *entire* book:**
- What's the general field or genre? Does the book fit?
- From what point of view is the book written?
- Do you agree or disagree with the author's point of view?
- Make notes as you read, passages to quote in your review.
- Can you follow the author's thesis, "common thread"?
- What is the author's style? Formal? Informal? Suitable for the intended audience?

- **Writing the Review:**

- Include title, author, place, publisher, publication date, edition, pages, special features (maps, etc.), price, ISBN.
- Hook the reader with your opening sentence. Set the tone of the review. Be familiar with the guidelines -- some editors want plot summaries; others don't. Some want you to say outright if you recommend a book, but not others.
- Review the book you read -- not the book you wish the author had written.
- If this is the best book you have ever read, say so -- and why. If it's merely another nice book, say so.
- Include information about the author-- reputation, qualifications, etc. -- anything relevant to the book and the author's authority.

- Think about the person reading your review. Is this a librarian buying books for a collection? A parent who wants a good read-aloud? Is the review for readers looking for information about a particular topic, or for readers searching for a good read?
- Your conclusion should summarize, perhaps include a final assessment. Do not introduce new material at this point.
- To gain perspective, allow time before revising.

Elements of a BR

- Bibliographic information
- Opening sentence (AIDA)
- Introduction (author & context)
- Purpose & thesis
- Summary (gist before rest)
- Trace the arguments
- Evaluation (S & W)
- Conclusion

FICTION



- **Who was your favourite character, and why?**
- **Did the characters feel real to you?**
- **Did the story keep you guessing?**
- **What was your favourite part of the book, and why?**
- **Were certain types of scene written particularly well - for example sad scenes, tense scenes, mysterious ones...?**
- **Did the book make you laugh or cry?**
- **Did the story grip you and keep you turning the pages?**



Visualize

- describe the images
- create a movie in your mind



Clarify

- stop and check for understanding
- summarize/explain
- note answers to questions



Question

- ask questions before, during, and after reading
- question to clarify and probe the text



Predict

- figure out what will happen next
- confirm and revise predictions



Connect

- make connections between the text and yourself, the world, and other texts



Evaluate

- form opinions
- draw conclusions

ACTIVE READING

The pleasures of reading?

- Getting totally lost in a book
- Being emotionally engaged with the text
- Becoming absorbed in an unfolding narrative; needing to know what happens next
- Being fascinated by information on a topic that intrigues you
- Anticipating enjoyment from reading both the words and the images
- Talking to other readers – informally or in organised book groups
- Being inspired by books (response).



**NO ENTERTAINMENT IS SO
CHEAP AS READING, NOR
ANY PLEASURE SO LASTING**

MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU

PICTUREQUOTES.com