
Writing a Book Report

Grammar and Format

A book report should be about 2 to 3 pages long. Each book report should be typed double spaced using 12-point font.

The first sentence should consist of the following items

1. The title of the book (book titles are always underlined)
2. The author's name
3. The purpose or main idea of the book. (biography, devotional, how-to, commentary)

Example: Why Grace Changes Everything, by Pastor Chuck Smith, reveals how he leaned to walk in God's grace and how it transformed his life. Next, you can interest your readers with a quote from the book, a thought provoking question, a dramatic statement or all three. Then tell what your report will focus on.

I will follow Pastor Chuck as he discusses what grace is, what righteousness is, and how accepting God's bountiful grace produces the fruit of the Spirit.

Give the chief points of the book and their importance to the story. If the book has a location and time, you should include this.

Style of Book

Biography – Give the major events in the person's life and tell how these events affected their life's work or ministry. A biography report follows the person's life chronologically.

Non-fiction – Why was the book written? Example: Foxe's Book of Martyrs, by John Foxe, provides a stirring account of the lives and deaths of early Christians. It discusses the persecution of the saints and examines the faith which strengthened them in times of adversity.

Fiction – What is the plot, who are the main characters, and what happens to them? How does the book end? Provide details about characters or events which will help your reader follow the plot. (Don't rewrite the book though.)

Application

Book reports must have application just as term papers do.

Tell the reader what you have learned from the book. This statement of learning should be stated in the first person singular e.g. (I, my, me.) The application to your own life should be done for every major point you are presenting. The book report should include how this book has affected your life personally. (I, Me, Mine.) Try not to allow for generic application or give in the third person plural (we, us.)

Conclusion

Finally, evaluate the book in the final paragraph. What you like or dislike about the book. Did the author accomplish his/her purpose? Provide specific examples to back up your opinion.

Vague: "I thought the book was boring."

Clear: "The author did not provide enough descriptive details about the characters for example, what was Hadassah doing in Rome and how did she get there?"