**Nonfiction Book Review Assignment**

*For this assignment, you will read the article below. You will read other reviews of your nonfiction book on Goodreads. Then, you will follow the “Nonfiction Book Review Template” and “Suggested Points to Include” directions listed in the article to complete your book review. Finally, you will post your review on Goodreads. For full points, you must follow all directions and craft a professional book review.*

[How to Write a Nonfiction Book Review](https://www.goodreads.com/author_blog_posts/4185774-how-to-write-a-nonfiction-book-review) by Leslie Ann McDaniel

*Do you love to read nonfiction books? Why not try your hand at reviewing them?*

**What is a nonfiction book review?**

A book review is a critical evaluation of a book. It isn’t just a summary, but gives commentary that will be uniquely yours as the writer of the review. The difference between a review of fiction versus nonfiction is that with the latter, the reviewer will evaluate the piece not so much on its entertainment value as on whether it fulfills its promise to solve a particular problem or deliver certain information.

**Why write book reviews?**

Reviews help books get noticed and gain credibility. Writers want to receive reviews to show readers that their book is widely-read and well-received.

**Where are reviews posted?**

These days, the answer is ‘lots of places.’ Many reviewers post book reviews on their own blogs. You can also post reviews on Amazon, Goodreads, library websites, or submit them to other people’s review blogs. If you really want to get serious, there are a lot of literary journals that accept freelance reviews.

**How long  should a review be?**

That will depend largely on where you are planning to submit your review. Check for guidelines, and assume that you will write anywhere from 100 to 1500 words. Be succinct, but give enough to serve the purpose of the review.

**Points to Consider:**

●What if you really don’t like the book? Always write your reviews with integrity. If you honestly don’t like a book, write your review as if you are in a critique session with the author. Use positive words and avoid sarcasm.

●Take time to read reviews written by other readers, but keep in mind that many of them are not trained reviewers.

●Review the book that has been written, not the book you think the author *should* have written.  It isn’t fair to criticize an author for failing to achieve something he or she never intended to achieve.

**Nonfiction Book Review Template:**

**Opening statement:** Include title and author.

**What does the book promise to deliver to the reader?** Another way to look at it is, what problem does this book promise to solve?

**Does it accomplish what it sets out to accomplish?**

**If so, how?**

**If not, what could the author have done differently?**

**What makes this author uniquely qualified to write on this topic?**

**What is the tone of the book?** Is it humorous and easy to relate to, or is it more dry and academic?

**Overall impression:** This is where you give your personal take on the book.

**Suggested points to include:**

Was the book written in a way that you as a reader could easily relate to?

What was your favorite part of the book?

Do you have a least favorite part of the book?

If you could change something, what would it be?

Are there photos or illustrations? If so, are they effective in enhancing the book’s message?

Would you recommend this book?

What type of reader would enjoy this book?

There are so many wonderful nonfiction books out there. Have a great time reading and reviewing!