

## ENGLISH B

### Text Type: Review

#### Purpose

To offer a writer's personal opinion of the qualities of the book, film or other type of text being reviewed. These views will be supported by reference to details in the book or film that support the reviewer's comments. A reviewer's overall opinion can be positive or negative.

#### Audience:

Readers of newspapers, magazines or online blog or review sites such as “The Guardian” books and review pages or “Metacritic.”

#### Purpose

To inform and communicate an opinion.

#### Format

- style often colourful and entertaining with interesting vocabulary, especially rich adjectives and adverbs
- may use first person “I” to personalize the review
- the introductory paragraph aims to grab the reader's attention, provides background about the author and gives the writer's overall opinion
- first body paragraphs gives some information about the story/book to provide a context for an evaluation of the writer's success – never tell the whole story or give too much away
- body paragraphs each discuss a few carefully selected aspects of the book or film such as plot, characterization, acting, effects, themes, quality of language and other literary devices.
- There should be a balance between providing readers with background about the book and evaluating it's success. Evaluation is the most important feature of a review
- The concluding paragraph contains a clear recommendation to readers of the review about whether the book is worth reading

#### Examples of book reviews:

You should look at some examples of book reviews, especially if you have never written one before. Preferably read a review of a book you have read recently as this will help you judge the reviewer' success in writing an interesting and convincing review.

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/books+tone/reviews>

#### Examples of film reviews: (also reviews games and music)

<http://www.metacritic.com/>

#### Extension

The Purdue Online Writing Lab has a more detailed discussion of book reviews, including getting the balance right between providing background information about the story and offering an opinion of the success of the book. <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/704/01/>