

How to review something

1. Start with a couple of sentences describing what the book or show or movie is about

- Obviously, without giving any spoilers or revealing plot twists!
- As a general rule, try to avoid writing in detail about anything that happens from about the middle of the book or series onwards.
- If the movies is part of a series, it can be useful to mention this, and whether you think you'd need to have read or watch the other ones in the series to enjoy this one.
- Keep it short and sweet since an official summary can be found through a quick google search!

2. Discuss what you particularly liked about it

- Focus on your thoughts and feelings about the story and the way it was told. You could try answering a couple of the following questions:
- 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 media, and why?
- Were certain types of scene written particularly well - for example sad scenes, tense scenes, mysterious ones...?
- Did it make you laugh or cry?
- Did the story grip you and keep you turning the pages or tuning in for the next installment?

3. Definitely mention anything you disliked

- Talk about why you think it didn't work for you. For example:
- Did you wish the ending hadn't been a cliffhanger because you found it frustrating?
- Did you find it difficult to care about a main character, and could you work out why?
- Was the story too scary for your liking, or did it focus on a theme you didn't find interesting?

4. For the conclusion, round up your review

- Summarise some of your thoughts on it by suggesting the type of audience you'd recommend it to. For example: younger readers, older readers, fans of relationship drama/mystery stories/comedy.
- Are there any books or series you would compare it to?

5. You can give it a rating, for example a mark out of five or ten, if you like!

- This will help wrap up your sentiments in a very approachable manner.
- Keeps your content consistent.

Extra tip:

- **INCLUDE BRIEF QUOTES AS EXAMPLES**
- Including quotes is always a great idea, because it gives examples for everything that you're saying! If your review talks about a character being particularly witty, a witty line from the character lets your readers see exactly what kind of witty character you're dealing with here.
- But be careful: lengthy quotes can take up big chunks of space and overpower your review. Short quotes will usually get your points across while letting *your* work shine through.

Consider your audience.

- Are you writing for a fan site, a national news outlet, or a Teen Magazine?
- Knowing who your readers are can help you decide what elements of the movie to highlight.
- You should also adjust your writing style to fit the target audience.

Know the Actors' portfolios, and call out directors, cinematographers, special effects.

- Many casual filmgoers will be inspired to see a movie if a favorite actor is in it, so you should probably spend a little space talking about the performances: seasoned actor in a new kind of role, brilliant performance from a rising star, excellence despite a lackluster script, dynamics in an ensemble, and so much more can be said about the actors in any given film.
- This is where your film geek can really shine. Tell your readers about the highlights or missteps of directors, cinematographers, costume designers and CGI magicians. What worked, what surprised, what fell short of expectations, are all great questions to address in the body of your review.