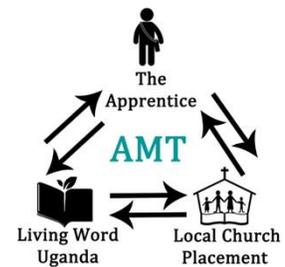


# WRITING A BOOK REVIEW



## Definition of a book Review

A book review is a concise summary of the content of the book which describes, comments and evaluates the book in question. It is a critical assessment of the content of the book that highlights its effectiveness, persuasiveness and ability to enhance your understanding of the issues at hand. Your book review should not be more than 2 pages, font 12- spacing 1.5.

## Structure of a Book Review

### I. Introduction

An introduction to a book review explains the book and author under review, its historical background, main idea and scope. It answers the question- what is the whole book about? (Use one sentence or a short paragraph).

In your introduction provide an evaluation of the book. This is the proposition for your book review. Your proposition should answer the following questions: what is the main argument of the book? What are its strengths, contributions and weaknesses or shortcomings? In which way does the book reflect these strengths, contributions, weaknesses or shortcomings?

### II. Summary of Key Arguments

Under this section you should provide a brief summary or overview of the book. This is not a record of everything in the book but a summary of essential arguments. While summarizing your arguments you may want to state the main proposition of each sub-section of the book in comparison to your own views and if possible views other writers of the same. It is helpful to maintain the order the author develops his key arguments. At the end of this section highlight some of the evidences presented in the book if any.

### III. Evaluation/Analysis

This is the main section of all of your book review. Explain and develop the arguments outlined in your propositions. Ensure that you use examples and quotations from the book as proof where necessary to illustrate and prove your assessment of the work. Point out places in the book whenever you make a leading argument. Give examples in areas where you think the author should have made some improvements.

### IV. Conclusion

To conclude your review, give a summary of all you have read, written or commented on highlighting unique contributions, limitations and your suggestions for future research for the writer/readers. State how it has impacted your own life and add anything that may be helpful to your readers to understand.