



MWSA Guidance for Review Writing

Here's guidance for writing a review. The asterisks denote required fields, the remaining items are intended as guidance for new reviewers. The remaining items need to be covered in the review somewhere.

***1. Title, Author, ISBN, Publisher.**

***2. Cover Art.**

***3. Your name as reviewer.**

***4. Genre.**

5. Write a short (3 line) synopsis of the book. What is the book about?

6. Write a short evaluation of how the book fits criteria 1 although don't make any mention of scoring on the review itself. (2-3 lines) Example:

This book discusses the relationship between Marines and the Corpsmen who take care of them. It's easy to read and moving.

7. Write a short discussion of any issues you discovered as related to criteria without making mention of scoring. For both criteria 1 & 2, you are actually analyzing the book with respect to the issues associated with them. (2-3 lines.) Example: I really enjoyed the cover of this book, but I can't figure out what it has to do with the content. Also, the maps are too small to be useful.

8. Comment on the elements of the book that make it believable or unbelievable.

Example: While the image of Yossarian sitting in a tree eating chocolate covered cotton is amusing, I personally have never been tempted by that particular snack. However, the famous passage where Yossarian screams "they are trying to kill me," followed by his fellow airman's response, "they are trying to kill everyone," followed by Yossarian's "and what difference does THAT make?" rings true and makes me chuckle every time I read it.

9. Comment on the elements of the book that typifies the genre. Example:

At the climax of this novel, I was almost afraid to turn the page lest the scarred Viet Cong soldier that had been following the protagonist might leap out of a tree and cut my throat. Breathtaking to the end, this book is filled with chills and thrills.

10. If you feel it's worth recommending to a general audience, say so...however most books delight certain audiences and leave others cold. Example: I'm not going to like a Romance no matter if it's the best Romance ever written. So say something that would

endear it to the audience it was written to reach. **Example:** If you are looking for a strategic military book, look elsewhere. However, "The Wizard of Oz" is a charming allegory that will move children everywhere.