

Semester 2 Independent Reading Assignment

Book Review

Your Task

Choose a book you are interested in reading, and read it! Your book may be fiction or nonfiction, however, you must be able to identify a main character and a singular plot in order to complete this assignment. As you read, form an opinion of the book. What do you like about it? What do you dislike about it? Can you relate to any characters? Can you relate to the plot? Does the story make you *feel* anything?

Your Assignment

Take a stance on the book. Then...

- (1) Give your book a rating somewhere between 1 and 5 stars.
- (2) Compose a thesis statement (1-sentence) explaining 3 reasons why you've given the book this rating.
- (3) Write a 250-word rationale in which you:
 - (1) Include the title of your book and the author.
 - (2) State your thesis.
 - (3) Explain why you would or would not recommend this book (Use quotes / specific examples from the story. For example, if you enjoyed the book because the main character was so confident, provide evidence (quote or specific example) from the text that demonstrates the character's confidence.)
 - (4) Summarize the book.
- (4) This rationale will be posted to the "Independent Reading Semester 2" blog as a comment. Remember, in posting this to a public website, you are presenting information that is readily available to the public. Proper grammar, spelling, and conventions are of the utmost importance.
- (5) You must then reply on one of your classmates' posts using the "comments" feature. You will comment on the blog post that is listed just prior to your post. Your comment should be a minimum of five sentences and should provide your reaction to your classmate's rationale (e.g. Do want to read this book? Why or why not? Do you agree with your classmate's comments? Have you heard of this book?) Comments should be appropriate, professional, and intelligent. Remember, this is public, so proper conventions are essential.

For further information on writing a book review, visit <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/704/1/>

Book Review Rubric

	3	2	1
Ideas ____ / 9	The student writes a book review that includes the main events of the story.	The student writes a book review that includes some of the main events of the story.	The student's book review does not cover the main events of the story. It is hard to tell what the story is about.
Organization ____ / 6	The student organizes the book review in a way that is appropriate and makes sense. The ideas flow nicely together.	The student has some organization to his or her book review, but is lacking a sense of flow and transition from one idea to the next.	The review lacks organization and structure. There is little or no flow or transition from one idea to the next. The organization does not make sense to the reader.
Voice ____ / 6	The student writes with voice by creating a catchy beginning, making a text-to-self connection, and using active or interesting words.	The student shows some effort with voice, but most of the writing is predictable with simple sentences and few interesting words.	The student writes with little to no voice. Most or all of the sentences are simple and the student makes predictable word choices.
Conventions ____ / 3	The book review has been edited and completely corrected for grammar, mechanics, and spelling.	The book review has been proofread, but not completely corrected for grammar, mechanics, and spelling.	The book review has not been edited for grammar, mechanics, and spelling.
Comments ____ / 6	The comment is at least 5-sentences long, reflects depth of thought, and is free from convention errors.	The comment is 4-sentences long, demonstrates some depth of thought, and has no more than 1 convention error.	The comment is less than 4-sentences long, demonstrates little depth of thought (trivial comments), and has convention errors.

____ / 30

Remember to Include

Attention-Getter

Title & Author

Thesis Statement

Rating (number of stars 1-5)

Specific Examples or Quotes (at least 3)

Summary

A point will be deducted for each of these items that is not included.