

21W.732
Spring 2010

Writing Assignment #5: A Book Review

**~4 pages
Due: 4/29**

Purpose:

This assignment is designed to give you further experience in writing reviews. Just as a book differs in obvious ways from a research or service proposal, the purpose, audience, scope, and format of this review will differ in certain ways from those of your proposal review.

Approach:

Imagine that you have been invited by a publisher to review the book you've chosen. You should assume that you are writing this review for some kind of "general audience". However, it's up to you to decide just how "general" you want that audience to be. Think about where you might publish this review. The amount of background, and the way you present the background, will depend in part, of course, on your target audience. Make sure that you have a clear idea of your purpose in writing the review, and that the review itself has a clear central theme.

Think of the review as a journalistic or scientific essay. You may choose whether to use headings to help structure and highlight sections of the piece. You may also choose whether to include illustrations. Try to come up with a captivating and descriptive title.

Content:

The review should include some background about the topic. It should convey the author's purpose, as well as his or her qualifications, for writing the book. It should give the reader some sense of the content, organization, and "flavor" of the book, as well as its intended audience. Readers should come away from the review with some sense of whether the book is of interest to them, and whether it's worth their time. How you organize the content of the review is up to you.