

Greetings fellow writer!

Thank you for your sincere interest in writing a Book Review for CHESadaphal.com.

This brief guide will assist you in organizing a review for the site, and is designed to maximize your web exposure and increase searchability. Of course, it goes without saying that if you write a book review, then you affirm that you have read the book cover to cover.

A sample of the most recent reviews can be viewed here:
<http://www.chesadaphal.com/category/book-reviews/>

- I. *Rating*. Out of a total of 5 points. A guide to the book review scoring system can be found here: <http://www.chesadaphal.com/book-review-scoring-system>
- II. *“The bottom line”* is a one-sentence synopsis of your impression of the book. If you only had 7 seconds to tell a stranger about this book in an elevator, find a way to fit it in here. This goes at the top of the page and may be the only sentence someone else reads.
- III. *The review*. This is the meat of the entire project at **must have at least 325 words**. When writing anything always keep in mind the following question to be answered *from the perspective the potential reader*: “Why should I care about this book, and what value will it add to my life?” Yes, you are writing the review but in reality no one cares what *you* think. They do care about how the book will matter *to them*.

Within the first sentence, include the name of the title being reviewed. This will eventually be hyperlinked to an external site (typically Amazon) that will allow the readers to buy the book if they wish.

The analysis shifts from objective to subjective. The first paragraph(s) should describe what exactly the book is about and detail the main themes touched upon by the author. Really, the first paragraph is an extension of “the bottom line” but you now have a minute instead of a few seconds. If you so desire, a brief social, historical, or political perspective about the author or circumstances surrounding the book’s writing can also be included here.

The second paragraph describes your subjective assessment about the objectives of the book. Here, you comment on how well/poorly the author constructs their arguments, the soundness of their thesis, if they consider alternative and contradictory stances, and if the text accomplishes what was promised. A short comment on the book’s readability will be helpful here as well.

Third, consider writing about either some very notable or very objectionable parts of the book. In other words, was there a particular conclusion, idea, strategy, or piece of advice that was so good (or bad) that it stood apart from everything else? Is there a quote that you just had to write down? Tell them about it!

Fourth, describe the group that you think would benefit the most from the book. Please keep in mind that not all great books are meant for everyone, so before you recommend that “astonishing” book on first through third century North African Christian martyrdom to the whole world, realize different audiences have different degrees of receptivity.

In the last paragraph you have free reign. Is there something you have to mention before you sign off? Is there a peculiar piece of information that other reviewers or media outlets have commented on but you just have to address?

- IV. *Closing*. Your name will appear in italics at the bottom of the page. If you would like to have your name link to your own personal website, please provide the address with your submission.

Upon approval of your book review, you will receive a permanent clickable nametag on the CHESadaphal blog page. Submissions must be sent to chesadaphal@chesadaphal.com with the subject of “CHES Book Review.” Please attach the review itself as a separate word document.

Blessings and Regards,

CHES.
Founder and Creator, CHESadaphal.com
October 2014