

Rewriting an Opinion Essay on a Book

Most of writing is rewriting. When rewriting an opinion essay on a book (or book review), here is a checklist of what to review to improve your rough draft. I have separated these into groups. Focus on the first group on your first rewrite of the essay, the second group on the second rewrite, etc., until the last group when writing your final draft.



Review 1

- _____ The paper has a title.
- _____ The introduction names the title of the book and its author.
- _____ The introduction gives a brief (one- or two-sentence) summary of the plot.
- _____ The introduction tells the paper's topic.
- _____ The conclusion recaps the central points of the paper, but in a different way than you've stated earlier.

Review 2

- _____ All names (the author, characters, places, etc.) are spelled correctly.
- _____ All plot points are presented accurately.
- _____ All quotes from the book are exact.

Review 3

- _____ Each paragraph focuses on one topic.
- _____ Each topic is contained in one paragraph rather than spread throughout the paper.
- _____ Each paragraph is about 3–7 sentences long.
- _____ There are transition words and sentences to develop flow.

Review 4

- _____ There are no incomplete sentences.
- _____ There are no run-on sentences.
- _____ There is a variety of short, medium, and long sentences.
- _____ There is a variety of simple, compound, and complex sentences.

Review 5

- _____ All quotes from the book are formatted correctly. (If the quote is shorter than four lines long, it can be in the body of the text; if it is longer, it should have its own paragraph with indented margins.)
- _____ There is a cover page with the title and possibly other information (your name, date of final draft, name of your teacher, grade, name of class, etc.).
- _____ All pages after the cover page have page numbers.

Review 6

- _____ All capitalization is correct.
- _____ All punctuation is correct.
- _____ Any other grammar rules you know are followed correctly.