

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

- _____ Each paragraph has a clear topic.
- _____ Every sentence in each paragraph relates to that paragraph's topic.
- _____ There are transition words and sentences to create good flow.

Review 2

- _____ The paper has a title.
- _____ The introduction catches the reader's attention (especially the first sentence).
- _____ 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 3

- _____ There are no incomplete sentences.
- _____ There are no run-on sentences.
- _____ There are no comma splices.
- _____ There are no rambling sentences.
- _____ There is a variety of short, medium, and long sentences.
- _____ There is a variety of simple, compound, and complex sentences.
- _____ There are no exclamatory sentences (an interrogatory sentence or two is fine).

**This sheet corresponds with Lightning Literature & Composition
Grade 5, Week 35, Days 3–4 and Week 36, Days 1–4**

Review 4

- _____ Verbs are strong and vivid.
- _____ Nouns are strong and vivid.
- _____ All adjectives and adverbs are necessary.
- _____ All homophones or other easily confused words are correct.
- _____ When possible, the strongest words in sentences are at the end or beginning (231 rule).

Review 5

- _____ You provide support from the book for every assertion/opinion you state.
- _____ 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.)
- _____ All quotes from the book are accurate.
- _____ All names (of characters, places, the author, the title, etc.) are spelled correctly.

Review 6

- _____ All capitalization is correct.
- _____ All punctuation is correct.
- _____ Any other grammar rules you know are followed correctly.
- _____ If you wish, include a cover.