

SAMPLE FORMATTED REVIEWS — COMPLETE TEMPLATE SET

1. Complete Sample Reviews (Templates for MLA, APA & Chicago)

Each template includes:

- ✓ Structure
 - ✓ Formatting instructions
 - ✓ Annotations placeholders
 - ✓ Section-by-section examples
-

1.1 MLA SAMPLE BOOK REVIEW TEMPLATE (Fully Formatted)

Student Name

Instructor Name

Course Title

Day Month Year

LastName 1 (*header, Times New Roman 12 pt, top right*)

Title of Book Review

(*Centered, no bold, no underline*)

Introduction

- Hook introducing the book's central idea
- Author, title (italicized), genre, publication year
- Purpose of the review

- Thesis statement evaluating strengths/weaknesses

Example sentence:

John Doe's novel River's Edge (2022) offers a compelling look at the cost of memory, though its uneven pacing detracts from the otherwise powerful narrative.

Summary (1–2 paragraphs)

- Brief, focused overview
 - No unnecessary plot detail
 - No spoilers unless required
 - Identify main characters and central conflict
-

Evaluation

Point 1: Character Development

- Topic sentence evaluating a major element
- Evidence (quoted or paraphrased)
- Explanation of significance

Point 2: Writing Style / Themes

- Topic sentence
- Example from text
- Analysis of effect

Point 3: Structure / Pacing / Setting / Genre Fit

- Topic sentence
- Evidence

- Analysis
-

Conclusion

- Restate overall judgment
 - Ideal audience
 - Overall contribution of book
 - Final impression
-

Works Cited

(Centered, new page, hanging indents)

Author Last, First. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Year.

Annotation Sample (Optional for Teacher Version)

- [Annotation 1] “Italicized title” → MLA requirement
 - [Annotation 2] “Topic sentence begins evaluation section”
 - [Annotation 3] “Hanging indent correctly applied”
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1.2 APA SAMPLE BOOK REVIEW TEMPLATE (Fully Formatted)

Title Page (APA 7)

Title of Review

Student Name

Department, Institution

Course

Instructor

Due Date (Month Day, Year)

Page number top right

Title of Review

(Centered, bold)

Introduction

- Author, title (italicized + sentence case), publication year
- Genre/purpose of book
- Main argument or aim of book
- Thesis statement offering evaluation

Example sentence:

In River's edge (2022), John Doe explores memory and trauma, presenting a narrative rich with symbolism but weakened by slow pacing.

Summary

- 1–2 concise paragraphs
 - Describe scope, major themes, and key ideas
 - Avoid unnecessary detail
-

Critical Evaluation

Point 1: Content Quality

- Topic sentence
- Example or quote
- Critical interpretation

Point 2: Writing Style & Clarity

Point 3: Usefulness / Audience / Contribution

Conclusion

- Balanced final assessment
- Suitability for specific audiences
- Contribution to field or genre

References

(New page, centered & bold title)

Author, A. A. (Year). *Title in sentence case*. Publisher.

Annotation Sample (Optional)

- [APA Note] “Running head not required for student papers”
- [APA Note] “Title in bold, centered”
- [APA Note] “Sentence case for book titles in APA”

1.3 CHICAGO SAMPLE REVIEW TEMPLATE (Notes–Bibliography)

Title of Review

(Centered, no bold)

Your Name

Introduction

- Author, title (italicized), publication details
 - Book's purpose
 - Your thesis/evaluation
-

Summary

- Overview of book
 - Key arguments/themes
 - Author's methodology (for nonfiction)
-

Critical Evaluation

Point 1: Strengths

- Example
- Footnote reference¹

Point 2: Weaknesses

- Evidence
- Footnote reference²

Point 3: Style, Structure, Contribution

Conclusion

- Overall assessment
 - Reader suitability
 - Contribution to field/genre
-

Bibliography

Author Last, First. *Title*. City: Publisher, Year.

Footnote Examples

1. First footnote example with full citation.
 2. Second footnote using shortened form.
-

Annotations

- [Chicago Note] “Footnotes required for quotations or detailed references”
 - [Chicago Note] “Bibliography on new page”
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2. Before/After Formatting Examples Templates

These templates show **common formatting mistakes** followed by the **corrected version**, each with explanations.

2.1 BEFORE/AFTER — MLA Example Template

Before (Incorrect Formatting)

- Title bolded and centered incorrectly
- No header
- Paragraphs not indented
- Wrong citation: (“Smith pg. 22”)
- Works Cited not alphabetized

Book Review of The Giver (bolded)

this book is about...

“Memory shapes everything.” (“Smith pg. 22”)

Works Cited:

Lowry, Lois. The Giver. 1993.

After (Correct MLA Formatting)

(Annotations included)

LastName 1

Book Review of *The Giver* (no bold)

Paragraphs indented

Correct citation: (Smith 22)

Correct Works Cited entry with italics

Explanation Notes

- Bold removed because MLA titles should not be bold.
- Citation corrected to MLA format.

- Hanging indent applied in Works Cited.
-
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2.2 BEFORE/AFTER — APA Example Template

Before

- Missing title page
 - No page numbers
 - Book title in title case, not sentence case
 - Incorrect in-text citation: (Smith 2022:22)
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After

Title Page Corrected

- Title bolded
- Name, institution, course, instructor, date formatted properly
- Page number included

In-Text Citation Corrected

(Smith, 2022, p. 22)

Explanation Notes

- APA requires sentence case for titles.
 - Correct punctuation inside parentheses.
-
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2.3 BEFORE/AFTER — Chicago Example Template

Before

- Missing footnotes
- In-text citation instead of footnote
- Bibliography missing publisher location
- Title italicized incorrectly

After

- Footnote inserted:
 1. Author, *Title* (City: Publisher, Year), Page.
- Bibliography corrected

Explanations

- Chicago Notes-Bibliography relies on footnotes instead of in-text citations.