

AP U.S. History
Book Review Criteria
And Rubric

Due Monday September 14, 2020 10 pm

You will write a three to five page review of the book you have read. You should provide a thorough, lucid and complete critical analysis of the book. Explicate, that is, explain carefully. What exactly does the book try to do? Is it successful or only partly successful in proving its thesis and point of view of the topic? Who is the intended audience? What are the author's credentials? Is this book typical of the author's work? What other books can this be compared to? Mostly I am interested in your thoughtful opinion of the work. As always, your opinion should be supported by reasons and backed up by specific examples from the book or elsewhere. While examples are very useful, be careful about summarizing or too much re-hashing of large parts of the book.

You also need to place the book in historical context. To what extent does the book explain the historical era that it deals with? Does it further the reader's understanding of American History as a whole? What are the book's limitations? Are these limitations of methodology, of scope or of execution?

I recommend that you look at a few professional book reviews as models or examples. There are Non-Fiction Book Reviews every week in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, *Kirkus Reviews* among others.

Rubric

Clear, relevant introduction Paper is well-written using appropriate language	/10
Appropriate use of examples from the book	/10
Review thoroughly <u>analyzes</u> the book's strengths and weaknesses	/20
Paper is well-organized	/10
Spelling, grammar and presentation and proper use of Chicago format	/10
Review reflects a good understanding of the time period	/10
Review provides background on the book and the author	/10
Opinions thoroughly supported by facts	/10
Overall Quality	/10
Total	/100
	X 1.5= /150

Comment: