



## **SDCL Guidelines and Format for Writing a Book Review**

We are putting no strictures on the book(s) that you choose to read and recommend, but there are certain things that we do require for your book review to be accepted.

The first of which is that you read the book. If it is a book that you have already read, be sure to review the book before you begin writing. If it is a book you are currently reading or plan to read, take notes as you go to help facilitate your work.

All work must be your own - do not plagiarize or infringe on the copyrights of others. If it is discovered that the work is not your own, the review will be rejected and you will not be allowed to participate in the program. We will notify you of your infringement and rejection and forfeiture of your volunteer hour. Please note, if we publish your review and are notified of a copyright infringement, the review will be pulled and the infringed copyright holder may seek damages against you.

The goal in writing your review is NOT necessarily to inspire others to read the book. If you didn't like the book, write about that in your evaluation - you could be saving someone from spending time better used on another book.

Your review must be at least 3 paragraphs in length on the Google Doc provided and in the following format:

Section 1 - Include relevant information such as title, author, publisher and year published. If it is part of a series, include information about the series as well. Be creative with this, not just a bullet point list of this info.

Section 2 - Overall plot synopsis - but no spoilers, you don't want to give away the ending.

Section 3 - Final review (this section may not exceed 500 words) - this is where your opinion of the book really comes out. Discuss what you liked and didn't like about the book. This can cover everything from plot to language to character development. You may also want to include your thoughts on the writer, your perception of what they wanted to achieve through their writing, and if they were successful in doing it.

The following are sites that will assist you in the writing of your review.

<https://answershark.com/writing/fiction-review/how-to-write-novel-review.html>

<https://innerlighttheory.com/simple-stages-of-developing-an-outstanding-book-review.php>

<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/how-to-write-book-review/>