

How to Write a Book Report in 10 Steps

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A good book report will address a specific question or point of view and back up the topic with specific examples, in the form of symbols and themes.

Have a Clear Objective to Write a Book Report in 10 Steps

Here are some steps that will help you identify and incorporate those important elements:

1. Have an objective in mind, if possible. Your objective is the point of view you want to convey, the point you want to argue, or the question you plan to answer.
2. Keep supplies on hand when you read. Keep sticky-note flags, pen, and paper nearby as you read. Don't try to take "mental notes." It just doesn't work.

Use Sticky Flags When Reading to Write a Book Report in 10 Steps

3. Read the book. As you read, keep an eye out for emotional flags. These can be anything from a symbol to an entire scene--anything that evokes emotion. These will indicate some important theme or point.
4. Use your sticky flags to mark pages. When you run into any of the emotion flags, mark the page by placing the sticky note at the beginning of the relevant line.
5. Note possible themes or patterns. As you read and record emotional flags or signs, you will begin to see a point or a pattern. On a note pad, write down possible themes or issues.
6. Label your sticky flags. If you see a symbol repeated several times, you should indicate this somehow on the sticky flags, for easy reference later.

Create an Outline to Write a Book Report in 10 Steps

7. Develop a rough outline. By the time you finish reading the book you will have recorded several possible themes or approaches to your objective. Review your notes and try to determine which view or claim you can back up with good examples (symbols).
8. Develop paragraph ideas. Each paragraph should have a topic sentence and a sentence that transition to the next paragraph. Try writing these first, then filling out the paragraphs with your examples (symbols). Don't forget to include the basics for every book report in your first paragraph or two.

Review Your Draft to Write a Book Report in 10 Steps

9. Review, re-arrange, and repeat. Your paragraphs are going to be clunky, awkward, and unattractive in their early stages. Read them over, re-arrange and replace sentences that don't quite fit.
10. Re-visit your introductory paragraph. The introductory paragraph will make the critical first impression for your paper. It should be great. Be sure it is well-written, interesting, and it contains a strong thesis sentence.



Grace Fleming

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Grace has worked with students for many years as an academic advisor and college enrollment counselor. She currently works as a Student Success Coordinator at a university in Georgia, where she teaches courses to help students improve academic performance, enhance research skills, and expand information literacy.

Experience:

Grace has appeared on television and radio outlets such as *Martha Stewart Living Radio*, FOX's *Tennessee Mornings* television show in Nashville, and *Fried Talk* in Memphis, TN. Her articles on study skills have appeared in various newspapers across the country. She appears frequently as a guest speaker in high schools to talk about organizing study habits and preparing for college.

You can read more about Grace's work on her Google profile: [Grace Fleming](#).

Education:

Grace earned a Master's of Education at the University of Georgia.

By Grace Fleming:

The key to academic success is a strong foundation that is established in the earliest years of school. It's so important to establish a strong work ethic and great study habits at a young age! Having said that, I know that it is never too late to establish great study habits. High school is such an exciting time of life, when students prepare for college and for life as an adult. It's a time for having great fun and making friends for life, but also a time for laying serious groundwork.