

The Book Talk

Basics:

- You have 5 minutes for your talk—which you should fill—and 4-5 minutes for Q&A.
- Your audience will ask questions of curiosity and also questions to test whether you read your book carefully.
- Presenters may sit at their desks or, if they prefer, they may stand in front of the class.
- Presenters may have the book with them when they speak, or they may type up a handful of notes and quotes from which to read.
- Your goals:
 - to describe your book clearly, and
 - at the same time to interest your audience in the book;
 - to speak clearly and articulately, i.e., in complete sentences

A book review should:

- Identify the author (including, very briefly, significant biographical/bibliographical facts), publisher, and publication date.
- Represent the book accurately
- Include a very succinct—1-2 sentence—description of the book as a whole
- Tell us:
 - What the book is like (perhaps including how it's shaped)
 - What it's good for
 - Who would especially like it or find it useful
 - Is it enjoyable to read? What, especially, interested you in this book?
 - Does it meet the reader's expectations? (Note: These expectations should be formed by what the author sets out in his or her Foreword or Introduction)
- Make sure to give us some of the flavor of the book—the author's own words

The listeners' role:

- All listeners are meant to really *listen*.
- For each presenter, 6 listeners will be designated to fill out an evaluation form. (The instructor will evaluate each presenter, too.) These forms will be skimmed by the instructor and then given to the presenters.
- All listeners are encouraged to ask questions of meaning, questions that dig deeper into the book's content and style, and questions that stem from their own interests and curiosity.

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