



### Guidelines to writing a book review

1. Reviews should include the name(s) of the author(s), title of the book, publisher information, page numbers and book format.
2. The review should be organized in a clear format; either following major sections of the book or broken down in sections according to the stated objectives below.
3. Indicate the appropriate audience for the book and who might benefit from reading the book.
4. Clearly state the primary message or objective of the text along with the broad themes and how well they appeal to the intended audience.
5. Explain compelling reasons to read the text along with how well the book fits within the existing understanding of the topic on which it focuses. Also indicate if the book significantly contributes to the body of knowledge and if the ideas are consistent or divergent with current accepted ideas on the same topic.
6. Provide your own opinion as to how you regard the book and state if the book contains any obvious biases. Please be clear when stating your recommendation with regard to the text.
7. Relevant quotations from the text are encouraged, which may support the reviewer's reaction to and assessment of the book.
8. The review should offer some critical commentary (covering likes and dislikes; strengths and shortcomings).
9. If the text under review is written in English, then we ask the same of the review. If however, the text is written in French, then we prefer the review to appear in French as well.
10. Reviews should not exceed 1500 words, be submitted in Word format, and be double spaced.
11. Reviews should be submitted to the managing editor at [cjas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:cjas@mcmaster.ca)