

A.P. European History Extra Credit Book Reviews

1. Read a book that is related to any topic that we have covered in A.P. European History in the first semester (Renaissance through Industrial Revolution). **Some suggestions are listed below. If you have another book in mind, please discuss with me. There is a lot of good stuff out there, both fiction and non-fiction.**

2. In writing your book review please be sure to address the following criteria in your essay in order to earn as many extra credit points as possible:

(A) Your first page of the review needs to have a heading that includes the following information: Your name, Title of book and author. Also include date of publication and number of pages.

(B) In the upper Right hand corner you need to place a header with your last name and page number. This will be on every page thereafter.

(C) The first paragraph of your review needs to act as an introduction as to what you will be discussing in your review. The first paragraph should restate the author and title and then go into a quick overview of the book, the purpose or audience of the book, and your overall reaction and judgment of the book.

(D) The second paragraph should cover background information that places the book into historical context and should discuss your criteria for evaluating the book. In dealing with the evaluation of the book your criteria will be based upon the purpose of the book. For example: I just read *Blood, Tears, and Glory: How Ohioans Won the Civil War*. The purpose of the book was to point out how Ohioans were involved in every facet of the Civil War and played a crucial role in the Union being successful in the Civil War. Ohioans were involved in the front lines, medical personnel, supply lines, generals, administration, and other important positions that eventually led to victory for the Union. One of my criteria for evaluating this particular book's success would be to judge whether or not the author gave sufficient connections between Ohioans and their key positions in helping the Union be victorious. In my discussion I would want to use specific examples, and quotes from the book to support my judgment one way or the other.

(E) The third paragraph is where you will want to give a summary of the book. In your summary you will want to use quotes, and paraphrase the main points of the book.

(F) The fourth paragraph is the evaluation of the book based upon the criteria you established in paragraph number two. In dealing with your judgment of the book you will want to address the following possible questions/topics: 1. How well the book has achieved its goal 2. What has the book left out 3. What specific points of the book are not convincing 4. What personal experiences have you had that connect to the book

(G) The final paragraph is your conclusion. In your conclusion you should end with a straight forward comment on the book. Also, tie together the issues you raised in your evaluation of the book in the conclusion. Similar to how you restate your main arguments on your DBQ essays for your conclusion paragraph.

FINAL TIPS FOR YOUR BOOK REVIEWS:

1. Remember a book review not only tells what a book is about, but also how well the book explains itself.
2. The book review is for me to check your analytical reading skills. (Do not just summarize the book and tell me that you either liked it or hated it. It is more in depth than that.)
3. In writing the review you need to demonstrate three key skills: (1)Describing what the book is about (2)Analyzing whether the book achieved its purpose (3)Expressing your own thoughts/reactions to the book
4. Here are a few things to think about as you read that will help you with your evaluation of the book:
 - What is the author's viewpoint?
 - What is the author's purpose?
 - What are the author's main points?
 - What kind of evidence does the author use to support his purpose?
 - What are the correct criteria I should use to assess/evaluate the book?

Remember your criteria on your evaluation of the book are driven by the purpose of the book.