

Reviving the Book Review as a High-Impact Learning Experience

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What is a book review? (free association) + What do our undergraduates think a book review is?

Samuel Olivo

Gabriella Coelho

Matha Mathieu

- deep, active learning (description, analysis, synthesis)
- a feasible, integrative capstone project possibility

What do *readers* want to know?
What do *you* want to express?

- one possible plan:**
1. **intro** (context, principal significance, argument)
 2. brief **summary** of content
 3. **analysis** and **evaluative** comments
 4. **conclusion** (e.g. call for more research in a particular direction, prediction of impact, unanswered questions)

RESIST the urge to write a
 hatchet job, no matter how tempting

- a dual quest: selecting a book & finding a publisher (not necessarily in that order)
- cultivating a responsive, preparatory awareness (building a bank of useful words, phrases)
- reading & writing, sometimes co-authoring
- submitting & revising
- following up, exploring further potential

REASONS TO REVIVE

sustained thought
a means of entering the conversation
scope for trying out an idea,
laying claim to an idea

BANK

convincing, persuasive
a visceral experience
Her eye for anecdote is excellent.
deftly, adroitly, meticulously
regrettable
This finding will not surprise anyone with more than a passing knowledge of [X].
ample in scope despite its brevity
[Z's] book drops like a depth-charge into these still waters.
...

a brief bibliography

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