

PROCESS FOR WRITING AN ARTICLE REVIEW

A good article review requires careful reading, critical thinking, and clear, well-organized writing.

1. READ TO UNDERSTAND

- Read the article several times: once quickly to get the big picture and once more slowly to understand the details
- Determine the author's main idea/thesis/argument and supporting points (Check the intro, conclusion, section headings, summaries to each section, etc.)
- **Map** the main points (Headings may be helpful.)

2. WRITE TO THINK

- Reflect on the author's main points by **freewriting** reflectively about them for yourself. This helps you uncover your ideas and find language to express them.
- For example, after reading each section (main point), write answers to questions such as these:

What is the author saying in this section?

Why is he/she saying this?

How does this point fit with his/her other ideas?

How does this point fit with ideas from your course?

How does this point fit with your own experience and opinion?

So what? What are the implications of this idea?

3. WRITE TO COMMUNICATE

- A review usually contains a **summary** of the author's main ideas (refer to your map from point 1) and your **evaluation or assessment** of these ideas (refer to your freewriting from point 2)
- Determine your overall opinion/assessment of the author's ideas: positive, negative or mixed. Then find reasons backed by evidence (examples) to support your opinion
- Arrange your ideas hierarchically
- Write your paper quickly, following your plan. Don't edit as you write. Focus on communicating your ideas
- Fix up your paper by working on one concern at a time
 - 1) **Content**: make your points clear and developed
 - 2) **Organization**: present your ideas in chunks (sections) introduced by summaries
 - 3) **Language**: edit for conciseness. Correct errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation