
How to Assess a Book

Given how much reading you will be doing in the MTS apprenticeship, it's worth thinking through how to approach the task of assessing a book. Have a look through the questions below as a starting point. They were primarily designed for given book reviews in church, so depending on the nature of the book there may be additional questions you need to consider...

While you read:

- Read the book with care.
- Highlight quotable passages.
- Note your impressions as you read.
- Allow time to assimilate what you read so that the book can be seen in perspective.
- Keep in mind the need for a single impression which must be clear to the reader.
- Pray before and after each reading

Book title	
Author	
Do we know anything about the author?	
Type of book	
General Subject matter. What is the overall message book?	
What are the authors' sources? (ie does s/he frequently refer to scripture, or other books, or their own experiences, or that of their churches, or theories of their own, etc)	
State the author's purpose in writing the book	
Who is the intended audience?	
How did the book affect you? Did you find it encouraging, challenging, or helpful? Why?	
Were any previous ideas you had on the subject changed, abandoned, or reinforced?	

<p>How well has the book achieved its goal?</p>	
<p>Would you recommend this book or article to others? Why? (ie what are the positive things about this book that you would like to tell other Christians about)</p>	
<p>Can you give a short quote from the book that illustrates its theme, or was especially encouraging to you?</p>	
<p>Summarize (briefly), analyse, and comment on the book's content.</p>	
<p>Were there any problems with this book? (not helpful, boring, difficult language, thematically confusing, too long, not detailed enough, not scriptural-based, not Christ focused, etc)</p>	
<p>Your final conclusions on the book.</p>	