

## WRITTEN BOOK REPORT

Written reports should include these four parts: the *introduction*, the *body*, the *conclusion*, and the *evaluation*. You will write a total of six paragraphs. The total length of your report should be 1-2 double spaced typed pages.

### 1. The Introduction (Paragraph 1)

- a. The first sentence should include the title of the book, the author's name, and the main idea of the entire book.

I Was a Slave in Russia by John Noble is the personal account of an American who survived 9 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years of cruelty in the slave-labor camps in Russia.

- b. Get your readers interested in what you are going to say— perhaps with a striking statement or quotation.
- c. If the book has a setting (time and place of the action), you may include it.
- d. One sentence (called the thesis or three point sentence) should indicate the organization of your report. In the following example, three topics and their order of appearance are suggested.

Mr. Noble tells of his surprising imprisonment, his long years of torture, and his eventual release.

### 2. The Body (Paragraphs 2, 3, and 4)

- a. For a biography, relate the chief incidents and tell their importance.
- b. For a nonfiction book, tell the importance of the subject treated in the book and write a summary of several parts of the book.

- c. **For a fiction book, write a summary of the plot.** The plot is the sequence of actions which make up a story. The plot begins with a conflict involving the main characters. Sometimes the conflict involves two people. Other times the conflict involves the main character and a variety of people and circumstances. In some stories, conflict may be at work within the main character. In the story *Robinson Crusoe*, for example, the main character is in conflict to the point at which one of the opposing forces is about to prevail over the other. This is called the climax.
- d. **The body normally has the same number of paragraphs as are indicated by the thesis sentence in the introduction.** That means three paragraphs in the body.

### 3. The Conclusion (Paragraph 5)

- a. For a biography, the conclusion may be a statement concerning the main significance of the person's life.
- b. For a nonfiction book, the conclusion may be a summation of the main points in the body.
- c. For a fiction book, the conclusion follows the climax of the story and tells the events that resolve the conflict.

### 4. The Evaluation(Paragraph 6)

- a. Give your thoughts about the book, whether they are favorable or unfavorable. Were you satisfied and happy with the outcome or were you disappointed? If the work was written to meet a specific need, did the author succeed in meeting that need? Tell how the book influenced your thinking and your goals in life. If the book gave "life lessons," give at least 2 or 3 examples. Use examples from the book to support your statements.
- b. The evaluation is as important as the body of your report.
- c. The evaluation should be a good well-developed paragraph of 5-6 (minimum) sentences.