For the Fourth writing assignment, we will write a book review of our text, *The Elements of Style.*

I have copied from the internet the following guide. Is you have found others that are helpful, go ahead and use them.

## What is a review?

A review is a critical evaluation of a text, event, object, or phenomenon. Reviews can consider books, articles, entire genres or fields of literature, architecture, art, fashion, restaurants, policies, exhibitions, performances, and many other forms. This handout will focus on book reviews. For a similar assignment, see our handout on [literature reviews](https://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/literature-reviews/).

Above all, a review makes an argument. The most important element of a review is that it is a commentary, not merely a summary. It allows you to enter into dialogue and discussion with the work’s creator and with other audiences. You can offer agreement or disagreement and identify where you find the work exemplary or deficient in its knowledge, judgments, or organization. You should clearly state your opinion of the work in question, and that statement will probably resemble other types of academic writing, with a thesis statement, supporting body paragraphs, and a conclusion. See our [handout on argument](https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tools-and-tips/argument/).

Typically, reviews are brief. In newspapers and academic journals, they rarely exceed 1000 words, although you may encounter lengthier assignments and extended commentaries. In either case, reviews need to be succinct. **While they vary in tone, subject, and style, they share some common features:**

* **First, a review gives the reader a concise summary of the content.** This includes a relevant description of the topic as well as its overall perspective, argument, or purpose.
* **Second, and more importantly, a review offers a critical assessment of the content.** This involves your reactions to the work under review: what strikes you as noteworthy, whether or not it was effective or persuasive, and how it enhanced your understanding of the issues at hand.
* **Finally, in addition to analyzing the work, a review often suggests whether or not the audience would appreciate it.**

For this assignment, a review should focus on the Forward, “Why English Matters”, Chapter 2 and 7.

Our edition attempts to meet earlier criticism most notably by Geoffrey Pullum. For your information, I have added a link to his criticism:

<http://www.lel.ed.ac.uk/~gpullum/50years.pdf>