

Guidelines for book reviews on BookSpeak

What we're looking for

- A book review (not a summary)
- About 350 words in length (2 minutes when read aloud)
- The book's title and author
- A variety of topics and authors
- Interesting subject matter
- Your passion and enthusiasm

Acceptable subject matter

- All genres (fiction, non-fiction, memoir, poetry, youth or children's books)
- An author's body of work (e.g., why you like Mark Twain)
- A "classic" – or something brand-new

Do

- Use quotes to make your point
- Write in short sentences that are easy to speak – if you run out of breath when reading it aloud, the sentence is probably too long
- Use words that you can easily pronounce
- Write a review, not a book report
- Write what you feel; don't be afraid to be critical

Don't

- Use clichés – like the blurbs on the book jacket ("a sweeping spectacle"... "the heart-rending story of a boy and his dog")
- Use X-rated material (write for a "G" audience)
- Re-tell the story in chronological fashion (this happened, followed by this)

No previous radio experience required

- We'll help prepare you and build your confidence
- Your review can be recorded at IPR's studios or over the phone if you can't get to the studio.

Timeline

- Written reviews should be submitted between May 21 and July 16.
- Reviews that are not broadcast will be published on the IPR Web site. (We will call you about any necessary editing and to schedule the recording.)

Contact information

For general information, contact Carol Trimmer, Outreach Coordinator at Indiana Public Radio, at ctrimmer@bsu.edu or 765-285-5887. To call toll-free, the number is 800-646-1812.

For questions about actual broadcasts, contact Brian Eckstein at beckstein@bsu.edu or mjackman@bsu.edu.

Be sure to provide us with a phone number where you can be reached during the day and/or an email address.

HOW TO SUBMIT A REVIEW

- Write your book review using MS Word. Please double space the text.

If you use email to submit your review, please:

- Send it to ctrimmer@bsu.edu as an attachment or paste it in the message
- Put BOOKSPEAK REVIEW in the subject line.
- Include your name, address, and daytime phone number

If you fax (765-285-8937) or mail your review to IPR (Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306), please:

- Write "Attention: Carol Trimmer" on the cover sheet or on the envelope
- Include your name, address, and daytime phone number

When submitting your review by email, fax or mail, please also:

- Tell us how you heard about BookSpeak
- Tell us whether you want your review to be published on the IPR Web site if it isn't selected for broadcast.

General information

No submissions for broadcast can be accepted after July 16. Written reviews for the Web site can no longer be accepted after July 27. BookSpeak 2007 will conclude at the end of July. Participants whose reviews are broadcast must sign a release form. No fees will be paid for broadcast rights, and participation in the project is free.