



## Book Discussion Template



This template can be used to prepare for discussing an entire book or any part (paragraph, page, section, or chapter) of a book. As written, the questions and statements assume you are using one template for the entire book. *Italicized print following the questions are only suggestions to get Marines on task.* Local variations to make this template more effective are encouraged.

### 1. Identify the author's mission (task and purpose) in writing this book.

Task may be expressed in terms like "to describe," "to relate the events associated with," "to explain," "to discuss," "to analyze," "to use fiction as a means to," "to address the problem of," "to inquire into the circumstances surrounding," "to propose" or "to argue (a particular point)." The purpose is a statement of what the author wants the reader to take away from the book and may be expressed with "to educate," "to convince," "to inspire," "to recommend a solution," etc.

### 2. What part of the book was the most effective in accomplishing the author's mission? What part of the book was the least effective?

Identify the most and least convincing arguments base on what the author wrote reconciled with your experiences. For fiction, what part of the story really drew you in and what part was least interesting?

### 3. What does the author assume to be true in order to accomplish his mission? Does the author validate these assumptions in the book?

### 4. The part of the book that is most relevant to what I / we do is:

### 5. Identify the author's specific and implied conclusions.

6a. With respect to the author's conclusions (either specified or implied), I / we accept or agree with the following:

6b. With respect to the author's conclusions (either specified or implied), I / we reject or do not agree with the following:

7a. This book made a favorable impression on me and it will change the way I approach:

(or)

7b. This book made an unfavorable impression for the following reasons:

*Note: This template is derived from MCWP 5-1 Marine Corps Planning Process, PCN 143 000068 00*

