

Distance Volunteer Book Reviewer Proposal

Mission: To digitally extend our reach into Austin's youth community and empower youth to provide direct feedback on materials available in the library's collection.

Program Description: The Distance Volunteer Book Reviewer Program is an unpaid assignment and is designed for youth ages 13-17. Volunteers will gain knowledge and skills used in the professional world of libraries, specifically in literary research, collection development and collection maintenance.

Selecting Titles to Review: Volunteers will first propose two books that they wish to review. These titles can be in any format (print, eBook, or audiobook) and any genre (including graphic novels), but on the condition that the participant has not read them before. **These books also cannot be part of a school assignment, instead the titles must be read solely for recreational reading.**

Review Procedure: Upon APL staff approval, volunteers will have 3 weeks to read each book, but an extension can be given for titles that exceed 500 pages. Volunteers will log how much time it took for them to read each book.

After finishing their book, volunteers will write a 200-250 word review, which should answer the following questions:

- What is the book about?
- Who would like the book?
- Is it similar to another book, TV show, or movie?
- Add any striking quotes
- Do you recommend this book?

Volunteers can submit their first draft via email to alanna.graves@austintexas.gov or share it as a Google Document, as long as they give anyone with a link editing privileges. Volunteers will be given feedback and will submit a final draft within one week.

Once the final draft has been approved, volunteers can post their reviews on Bibliocommons. If volunteers do not have a library card, APL staff will post their review on their behalf.

Review Sample:

Material Girls by Elaine Dimopoulos

Seventeen-year-olds Marla Klein and Ivy Wilde live in a dystopian society similar to Allyson Condie's *Matched*, where careers and social castes are predetermined by the government and fashion boutiques rule the world. Marla works for fashion label Torro-LeBlanc on the top floor as Superior Court Judge, but after making too many mistakes, she gets demoted to Designer and is forced to work in the basement. Meanwhile, Ivy is a pop star and celebrity brand representative for Torro-LeBlanc. When the two meet in-person, they decide to rebel against society's wasteful habits by making "eco-chic" the hot new fashion trend. The two take it a step further by scheming with other Torro-LeBlanc workers to demand better wages and better working conditions by going on strike, but will it succeed?

Surprisingly, readers will learn a great deal about labor unions, workers' rights, environmentalism, and may feel inspired to buy garments that are globally regulated. What makes this novel unique in the dystopian genre is how societal change does not happen instantaneously; indeed, there are many failures on the path to revolution. The author provides more information about sustainable clothing and ethical manufacturing practices, although one hyperlink is already outdated. Highly recommended for collections who are looking for an inspiring novel about environmentalism and workers' rights outside of the nonfiction section.

Posting on Bibliocommons:

In order to post on the library's catalog, Bibliocommons, volunteers must already have an APL library card. Volunteers who attend AISD or Del Valley may already have a library card!

FAQ on how to log into Bibliocommons:

<https://library.austintexas.libanswers.com/faq/14122>

FAQ on how to post comments in Bibliocommons:

<https://help.bibliocommons.com/025ug/000adding-content/>

Volunteer Credit: Volunteers will receive 25% of the hours it took to read a title, and 100% of the hours it took to write both drafts of their reviews. Volunteers will be responsible for logging their hours on Give Pulse.