

## Skeptic Book Club Rules

1. Scope. The RET Skeptic Book Club (RET SBC) is an activity open to all RET members and interested others who would like to discuss issues related to sciences and society and its impact as well as a variety of related topics, in the spirit of free inquiry.
2. Titles. Preference will be given to newer books (published in the last 2-3 years), although older titles will be considered if deemed interesting by enough members (see points 7 & 8). The range of topics fall under the broad headings of skepticism and free inquiry into the nature and human activities.
3. Level of difficulty. The RET SBC is aimed at people with a general college education or equivalent. The books should not be either too general or too scientifically sophisticated.
4. Location and time. Both time and location can be altered by majority vote of the people regularly attending the discussions, conditional on clearance from the RET Board. Any changes must also be communicated to the Newsletter Editor.
5. Chair. The SBC is chaired by one RET member who is appointed by the RET Board in consultation with regular attendees to the discussions. It is suggested that the Chair of the book club be appointed as an RET Board member, if s/he is not already one.
6. Discussions. The RET SBC discusses one book every one or two months (depending on length and interest of the book), which may include discussion of different parts of the book with as well as of one or two articles or reviews focusing on a topic related to the book under discussion, published by a different author and reflecting an opposing viewpoint.
7. Book suggestions. Titles can be suggested by anybody at any time but typically when requested by the Chair. Suggestions should be forwarded to the Chair, with author and title of the book in question. Members will be notified of the suggestions (as vetted by the chair) and be given an opportunity to vote on the number of choices designated by the Chair.
8. Selections. These are made by the Chair, who will have to do so in consultation with the discussion members following a standard procedure:
  - B. An email or newsletter will be sent to the RET membership with the title/author of the suggested book. If possible a brief synopsis should be provided.
  - C. When enough books are proposed and reach the minimum endorsement, the Chair will rank books in order of endorsements and will put them on the calendar.
  - D. Additional entries can be put on a waiting list in case there are not enough new suggestions for the next round of selections.
9. Calendar. The Chair will update the RET calendar or designate an authorized person to do so in his or her stead.
10. Fundraising: The RET SBC may do fundraising by linking the books to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or similar services as a local provider. Members should be encouraged by the Chair and by the RET Board to purchase their copies through the “official” RET venues.