

Mr. Jones  
HONORS AMERICAN GOVERNMENT/HONORS FOREIGN POLICY  
BOOK REVIEW ASSIGNMENT

- 1) Students are to select a book about a topic concerning American government. After selecting the book, students must get approval from the instructor before proceeding. Students should choose a book that they have more than a passing interest in reading.
- 2) The reviews will run from four-to-five typed, double spaced, 12 font, one-inch margin pages. Since it is important that the review should conform to high school level standards in grammar, style and spelling, it is suggested that the student write several drafts of his/her review. Please proofread your review in order to eliminate all typographical and other errors.
- 3) Remember that this book review should be a critical analysis and NOT A SUMMARY.
- 4) **CONTENT OF THE REVIEW.** One or more paragraphs may be devoted to the following aspects:
  - a) An introduction that includes a description of the subject and time period covered in the book.
  - b) A careful analysis of the central theme. (i.e. What is the author trying to do with this book?) Students should look for an overall positive, negative or objective tone to the work.
  - c) Presentation of 2-3 specific examples of how the author has supported the theme.
  - d) Presentation of at least one example of how this work has fallen short of what it hoped to accomplish. (i.e. What is(are) the main weakness(es) of the book?)
  - e) What particular contribution does this book make to your understanding of American government and the policies it must develop? Explain.
  - f) Briefly state your own conclusions.
- 5) See the website for some samples of book reviews.
- 6) **GOOD LUCK.** Remember, if you have questions, or are at a loss on how to proceed, see the instructor.