

## AP American Government Summer Reading Assignment

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Welcome to AP Gov! It is our intention for you all to become scholars of United States politics and be able to debate and defend constitutional structures and modern practices. To do this you have to do more than just memorize, you need to think. Therefore, for your summer assignment you are to read and annotate one nonfiction book dealing with politics in the United States. Your choices and a brief review (from Amazon.com) are listed below. They represent an assortment of choices from local to national politics, the modern political process, and various branches of government.

### Assignment Specifics

Complete a thorough, insightful book review. **Your book review will be due on Friday, August 24th.** You can earn bonus points (trust us, you will want these) by turning yours in by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

First - Read and annotate the book (highlight, margin notes or post-its).

Second – Write your analysis.

1. *Introduce the Author.* Evaluate his/her credentials and background.
2. *Analysis:* What is the goal/purpose of this book? Explain its core thesis and how the author develops this thesis. Evaluate the quality of the author's defense of this thesis. Reference specific instances using citations, page #s, avoid long quotes.
3. *Bias:* Identify the biases and/or inaccuracies in your chosen book. Describe three examples, explain the bias as well as why the author used it. Please cite by page #.
4. *Application:* Tie the content of this book to at least two current events/issues in American politics. Be sure to clearly explain the connection between the book's content and current affairs.
5. *Evaluation:* Is this book a worthwhile read? Did it enhance your knowledge of American government and politics? Explain.
6. On a separate page, identify and cite (page #), three key quotes that are essential to understanding the book. Briefly, but specifically, explain the significance of each quote.

Third – **Submit using turnitin.com by Friday August 24<sup>th</sup>** (or by the 1<sup>st</sup> if you want extra points)

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- Length: 3-4 pages typed, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, Times New Roman font, etc. If you answer the questions above completely and accurately you will have no problem with length. (We reserve the right to hold a follow up book talk if necessary.)

**\*\*This summer work assignment will be worth 5% of your overall grade for this course**