

**AP GOVERNMENT  
SEMESTER BOOK REVIEW**

**STUDENT:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TITLE OF BOOK:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I. BIBLIOGRAPHY** \_\_\_\_\_/5

**II. INTRODUCTION** \_\_\_\_\_/10  
**Author's Purposes**

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**III. BIOGRAPHY OF AUTHOR** \_\_\_\_\_/10

**IV. AUTHOR'S USE OF SOURCES** \_\_\_\_\_/10

**V. SUMMARY OF THE BOOK** \_\_\_\_\_/15

**VI. CRITICAL ANALYSIS** \_\_\_\_\_/40

**Were author's goals accomplished?**

**Author's weaknesses/strengths**

**Style of writing**

**Do you agree/disagree with author's viewpoint/themes?**

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**VII. CONCLUSION** \_\_\_\_\_/10

**VIII. GRAMMAR/PUNCTUATION/SPELLING ERRORS** \_\_\_\_\_

**FINAL GRADE** \_\_\_\_\_/100

AP GOVT.  
BOOK REVIEW SEMESTER REPORT

- I. The top of the first page must contain a standard bibliographical entry for the book. This will include author, title, and facts of publication.
- II. The question of "what was the author trying to do" should be answered. In your introduction, you need to deal effectively with what you perceive to be the author's purpose(s) in writing the book.
- III. The author must be properly identified in terms of his/her background and qualifications for writing this book. Be sure to explore the author's occupation (scholar, newspaper writer, participant in government, propagandists, etc.). This should give some insight into any possible slant the author may bring to bear. Book jackets and prefaces often give biographical information, but students should also consult reference works such as biographical dictionaries, the Directory of American Scholars, Contemporary Authors, etc.
- IV. A section of your review must address whether or not the author effectively uses sources. Does the author use sources? Does the book contain a bibliography and footnotes? Are these sources really used or simply given for show? It is obvious that the author ignored relevant sources? Do the answers to these questions add or detract from the author's credibility?
- V. Your summary of the book must be brief but descriptive. It should tell how the book is organized and must state the author's main theme or themes.
- VI. The main part of your review must be the critical analysis. This is the section in which you are expected to give evidence of your own thinking about the book you read. There are a number of questions you should answer in depth. Did the author accomplish what he set out to do? What did he or she do especially well? What did the author do poorly? Does the author disagree in significant respects with what you know of the subject already, from the textbooks, from outside readings, etc.? Do you agree with the author and his/her viewpoint and theme(s)? Why or why not? Does the style of writing help or hinder the reader's understanding and absorbing of the book's content? Does the author prove his or her case? To what extent?
- VII. The review should end with a brief conclusion. Among the issues to consider might be whether, how, and to whom the book is useful.