

Mr. Jones  
HONORS AMERICAN GOVERNMENT  
BOOK REVIEW ASSIGNMENT

- 1) Students are to read *The Odd Clauses* by Jay Wexler.
- 2) The reviews will run from three-to-five double spaced, Times New Roman 12-font, one-inch margin (standard) pages. Since it is important that the review should conform to collegiate-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**. I want to read your thoughts concerning the book. A book report will show little of your understanding of the thoughts/concepts from the book. Besides, if I wanted a book report, I'd read the book myself (in many cases, I have read the book).
- 4) Reviews will be turned in on turnitin.com
- 5) **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. **(10 points)**
  - 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. **(15 points)**
  - c) Presentation of 3-4 specific examples of how the author has supported the theme. **(25 points)**
  - 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?) **(15 points)**
  - e) Discussion of the author's bias throughout the book. Present at least two examples that support your conclusions about the bias. **(15 points)**
  - f) What particular contribution does this book make to your understanding of American government and the policies it must develop? Explain. Briefly state your own conclusions concerning the book, the topic covered and ideas for further reading. **(10 points)**
- 5) **GOOD LUCK.** Remember, if you have questions, or are at a loss on how to proceed, see the instructor.