

Outside Reading In-Class Writing

- **Make a copy of this document.** Replace “Copy of” with your last name then answer the questions below.
- **Be specific in your responses.** Your goal is to demonstrate you read the book carefully and thought deeply about the ideas presented.
- **Submit to turnitin when finished.**
 - I will be checking carefully to ensure that your responses are your own work and not captured or copied from other sources, reviews or summaries about your book. This would be considered a violation of the academic dishonesty policy and will result in a zero on this assignment.
 - You may not use any AI platform to help you with your ideas, your language or the phrasing of your sentences. Your words should be your own. The first use of AI will result in a 10 point deduction on the final grade for this assignment. The second will be an additional 20 points and the third will mean a zero for the entire assignment.
- **Be sure to follow all of the instructions above.** You will lose points if you don't.
- Link to [rubric](#)

1. What is the title of your book?

2. What is the author's thesis? In other words, what is the author arguing in the book? Another way to think about this is why did the author write the book? What is their point of view on the issue?

3. Summarize **three** major events / key points from the **second half of the book**. Describe how those points help the author to prove his/her thesis?

4. Pick a quote from pages 190-210 (For 12 Angry Men **Only**-pages 134-154, for Are Prisons Obsolete **Only**-pages 80-110). Provide context about that point in the book, interpret the quote and describe its purpose.

5. What is the last line in the book? Why do you think the author chose to end the book in that way?

6. Evaluation and conclusion. You may answer these as separate questions or craft a full paragraph to address them all together. Use specific examples from the book to support your response.

- a. Give your opinion about the book. Is the book easy to read or confusing? Is the book interesting, entertaining, instructive? **Go beyond your "gut reaction" or “interesting” as a response and make sure to explain WHY it's interesting, surprising, etc.**
- b. What are the book's greatest strengths and weaknesses?

- c. How effectively does the author make his/her arguments? In other words, was the author persuasive in convincing you of his/her thesis? How persuasive is the evidence? What, if anything, was missing from the author's argument?
- d. Would you recommend this book to next year's students? If so, why? If not, why not?
- e. What else would you like to say about this book?

--