**The Social Contract Reading Guide**

**Book I: 1. The subject of the first book**

1. How is man born according to Rousseau?
2. How should the social order be understood?

**6. The social compact**

1. How does Rousseau overcome the difficulty man encounters when becoming part of a collective effort without harming his own interests and neglecting the care he owes himself?

**7. The sovereign**

1. What are the two commitments each individual acquires when belonging to the public?
2. What is the body politic supposed to do to those people who refuse to obey the general will?

**Book II: 1. Sovereignty is inalienable**

1. Why does Rousseau say societies exist (how did a bunch of people come together in the same place to start a society)?
2. What happens to a nation when its people agree to simply obey rather than take an active role in their country?

**2. Sovereignty is indivisible**

1. What image/comparison does Rousseau make to the attempts to divide a sovereign body?

**4. The limits of the sovereign power**

1. What is the agreement the individual makes according to the social compact about his power, goods, and liberty?
2. What are the limitations of the general will when acting on an individual’s behalf in a court of law?
3. What does Rousseau say about military service/the defense of the nation?