

May 21, 2019



Dear AP Human Geography Students:

I am very excited to meet you this fall. Reading about the world around you is an essential step toward success in college level social studies classes. Over the summer, you are required to **choose one** of the books from the list at the end of this letter. Create a dialectical journal page for each chapter. If you don't know what a dialectical notebook (journal) looks like, I have provided a visual guide below. **I will pick this assignment up the second week of school.** For any student that moves in over the summer, you will be allotted reasonable time to finish. You can drop me an e-mail when you receive this so that I know when you moved in and became aware of the assignment. **The value of this assignment will be your first summative.** It will be graded based on how well you follow the directions given below; the quality of the information listed in each section (A, B, C) and, of course, that the definitions and textual information is accurate. For information concerning "do ahead extra credit," see discussion at the end of this letter.

A photograph of the cover page of a lined notebook. It has a header section with the following labels: "Full Name of Student", "Title of Book", "Author of Book", and "(Cover Page)".A photograph of a content page from a dialectical journal notebook. The page is numbered "5" in the top right corner. It features a header with "Name of Book" and "Chapter Title or Number". Below this is a table with two columns: "TEXT" and "My Response". The "TEXT" column contains a quote: "This is where you will write the lines from the text that caught your eye, made you stop to think or you felt was the best example of the theme you were working with." Below the quote are two columns labeled "A" and "B". The "A" column contains the text: "You will be graded on the evidence of thought that you have put into your response through your ability to put your thoughts into words." The "B" column contains the text: "This is where you will write your response, ask your questions, and discuss your thoughts on the theme you have chosen. Be sure to have enough to say about the topic to fill this side of the page." At the bottom of the page, there is a section labeled "C" with the instruction: "If there are words you don't know in the section you are reading, write them here and define them. If you do not come across any words of that nature, continue to use this space for your response."

The criteria are simple, on the cover page you put your full name, title of the book and author of the book. Each chapter should have at least one content page designed and filled as you see below. For each page make sure to include:

- ✚ Name of Book (top left corner)
- ✚ Chapter Name or Number (top left)
- ✚ I chart labeled as follows
 - ✓ Column A- text- things that caught your eye. Include page #
 - ✓ Column B – Response – this is where you write your reaction, thoughts, questions.
 - ✓ Bottom of page C – list and define new words or phrases that are new to you.

Book List

Analytical Books:

- ✚ Don't Know Much About Geography by Kenneth C. Davis
LEVEL –Fast and Easy Basics most ninth graders don't know.
- ✚ Prisoners of Geography; Ten Maps That Explain Everything; Book 1 in the Politics of Place Series by Tim Marshall
LEVEL – Fast and more concept related for college level
- ✚ Why Geography Matters; More Than Ever by Harm de Blij
LEVEL – More adult, but a must read for parents and AP students!
- ✚ Brazil on the Rise by Larry Rohter
LEVEL – Adult interest, but much more engaging for high school students than the next three. I like to talk about Brazil a lot, because there are many connections to important geographic themes.
- ✚ Holidays in Hell by P.J. O'Rourke
Humorous yet serious on the ground correspondence in areas of the world experiencing economic, political and social challenges. The author was head of the foreign affairs desk of Rolling Stone Magazine.
LEVEL – Adult interest, possible curse words.
- ✚ Eat the Rich by P.J. O'Rourke
A study of the economic systems that have affected various parts of the world in vastly different ways. Again, the author was head of the foreign affairs desk of Rolling Stone Magazine.
LEVEL - Adult interest, possible curse words.

Novel Style Books:

- ✚ Funny in Farsi by Firooza Dumas
- ✚ Laughing Without an Accent by Firooza Dumas
- ✚ Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two by Joseph Bruchac
- ✚ The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
- ✚ The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
- ✚ The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver
- ✚ The Man Called Red; An Autobiography of a Guide and Outfitter in Northern British Columbia by N.B. "Red" Sorensen

Summative Replacement Option – Do ahead extra credit. See supplement next page.

Sincerely,

Jerri Ybarra
AP Human Geography
Social Studies Curriculum Chair
Youth and Government Sponsor
Dripping Springs High School
512-858-3166
jerri.ybarra@dsisdtx.us

Summative Replacement Option – Do ahead extra credit.

This is an AP class, meaning that you will be learning college level material three to four years ahead of your peers. Being in AP means that you take a test in May which determines whether you were qualified enough to earn college credit. Therefore, you are going to be met with tests that are a different readability and will challenge you. One of the things that students told me about the AP test is that they needed more work on knowing the countries of the world and more awareness of other countries. So, you may start working on map quizzes on an interactive website called Lizard Point. During the first two weeks of school, you will have a series of diagnostic tests identifying countries, water bodies, mountains and deserts on regional maps. The specific place-names you need to know are found on Lizard Point (<https://lizardpoint.com/geography/>). If you score well on the diagnostic, you may use it as a summative to help your overall summative average. Below is a picture of the website and where to click to get started.

