



HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Monday, August 6, 2018

Dear parents and students,

I am so excited that you decided to take AP Human Geography (APHUG). It is a wonderful class with really interesting subject matter. I love teaching about how human beings interact and are shaped by their geography. As you will learn, geography is everywhere. I am really looking forward to an exciting year.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses offer you the opportunity to get a head start on college while in the supportive environment of a high school classroom. AP Human Geography is one of the few AP classes available to freshmen. You can earn college credit or placement by taking the AP exam at the end of the school year, while at the same time achieving a higher level of learning and expanding your general knowledge. If you score a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP exam, you can earn credit at the university level. While the AP exam is optional for you to choose to take, you will drastically increase your geographic literacy by just taking the class.

The AP program teaches you to challenge yourself, study subjects in detail, and develop reasoning and analytical skills. In addition, AP courses and exams prepare you for the rigorous demands of college. As a reminder, you will have homework and there will be independent work and reading. Studies have demonstrated that students who take AP courses are more likely to earn a bachelor's degree and be successful in college.

It is my hope that you have a strong curiosity in the subject matter and the dedication to work hard independently and in class. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the AP program and future AP classes at El Modena High School. There are no prerequisite classes. I look forward to working with students in August and meeting parents at Back to School Night.

As a reminder, the students enrolled in AP Human Geography and will need to complete several brief summer assignments including the following:

1. Maps—14 Basic political maps (separate handout)
2. Current Events (5) Articles and Chart (see attached directions)
3. Binder and 10 dividers (only for AP Human Geography)
4. Introductory Letter (see attached directions)

The assignments are due on the Friday of the first week of school. You are welcome to complete the assignments early if you choose to do so. Remember, El Modena is a bring your own device school, so students will be using electronic devices periodically during class and using such apps as Remind, iScore5, and several others.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Katie Karich

kkarich@orangeusd.org

Directions for AP Human Geography: Introductory Letter

In order to get to know you, you will need to write a two-page introductory letter. Be sure that the essay includes a picture of you and one place in the world where you would like to travel. The purpose of the assignment is to help me learn about more about you and what you want to get out of the class. _____

- Don't forget to include: _____
 - Heading: Your name, date, AP Human Geography, Period (upper right hand corner)
 - Salutation at top: Dear Mrs. Karich,

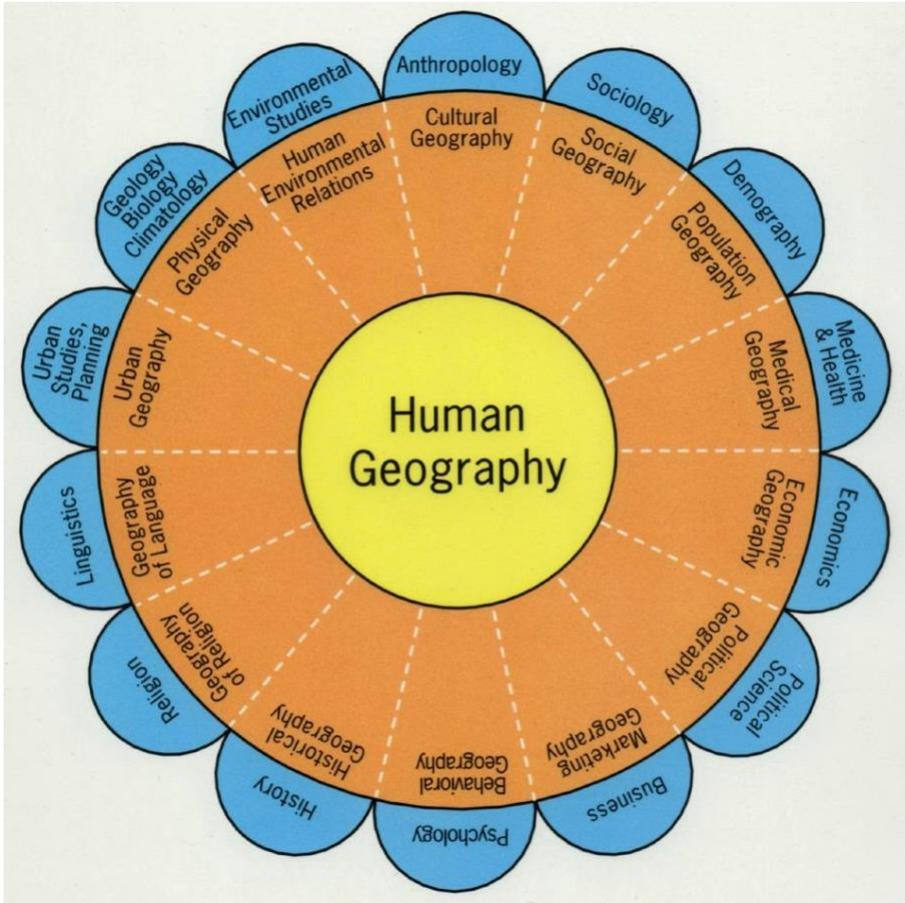
The body of the letter should include MOST of the following:

- Interests and information about you _____
 - What do you like to do (hobbies, sports, music, etc.)?
 - What extra-curricular clubs, sports and activities are you involved with at ELMO or outside of school?
 - Any siblings who have taken AP Human Geography or parents who work in a geography related field (urban planner, architect, geologist, etc.)
 - Geography related to your name or family heritage. Tell me a little about your heritage or name if it relates to geography and history.
- Geography Education: _____
 - What other geography classes have you taken? Have you studied geography in school before such as learning U.S. states, countries of Europe, etc.?
 - Was there anything that you liked or disliked about your previous geography classes?
- AP Human Geography: _____
 - Why did you sign up to take AP Human Geography? What do you hope to accomplish/gain?
 - What are you looking forward to the most in AP Human Geography?
 - What are you most anxious about in AP Human Geography?
 - What are your goals for the class? (Earn a "5", gain a global perspective, impress my friends, etc...)
- Learning preferences: _____
 - What are your personal strengths when it comes to learning new material?
 - What causes you to struggle in a course?
 - What is the most effective way for you to prepare for a test?
 - What are you most interested to learn about?
 - Do you have any preferred seating arrangements?
- Future plans: _____
 - What are your plans after graduating from high school?
 - What career pathways are you thinking about? (see flower on last page)
 - What are some careers available related to Human Geography? (Check College Board site.)
 - What countries are you interested in learning more about or traveling to one day? Any interests in studying abroad or living in another country? Any amazing vacation locations? Please share.
- Conclusion: _____

Sincerely, Your name.

Again, this is a letter that will help me to get to know you. There are no right or wrong answers. Feel free to write more about the questions that interest you. You do not need to answer every single question so long as you type approximately two-typed pages. There are no right or wrong answers. This will be graded for effort, clarity, detail, and completion. It will be posted prominently in the classroom. DON'T forget the picture of you and a place you would like to visit.

Subjects and Fields Related to Human Geography



Current Event Log Assignment

Part of becoming a global citizen is becoming more aware of what is happening in the world around you. Paying attention to what is happening in the news will help to illuminate the locations and concepts we will study, and current events will often be used as conceptual examples in class and on AP FRQs

The last part of your summer assignment is to keep a running log of 5 significant events that occur throughout the summer. Please try to focus on global events (ex. June 20 is world refugee's day-- why is the number of refugees higher this year than in previous years?) but some national and local events are acceptable (ex. Colorado wildfires, drone surveillance, etc.)

If you're having trouble figuring out which events are of most significance to our class, keep the following themes in mind: population, migration, resource management, agriculture, medical and technological advances, race and gender issues, language, religion, political conflict and unrest, agriculture, urban life, and industry.

Log the events you find in chart format below.

| When did this event occur? (Date) | Where did this event occur? (on the globe) | News Source (BBC World News or other news source) | What happened? (~5 sentence summary, including who, what, when, why, and big picture significance/impact of the event) (Must use complete sentences.) |
|--|---|--|--|
|--|---|--|--|

In addition to your log, **don't forget to map each of the events on one World Map** (posted below). You can simply number the locations to coincide with your log entries, or label each with a few words. *Don't forget to cite your sources!*

Resources for Current Events

--[CNN Student News](#)-- a daily, 10 minute news update geared for teenagers-- great because it not only describes, but also explains the significance of events! Much recommended!

--[BBC News](#)-- a major news service out of the United Kingdom-- good for getting a less biased perspective

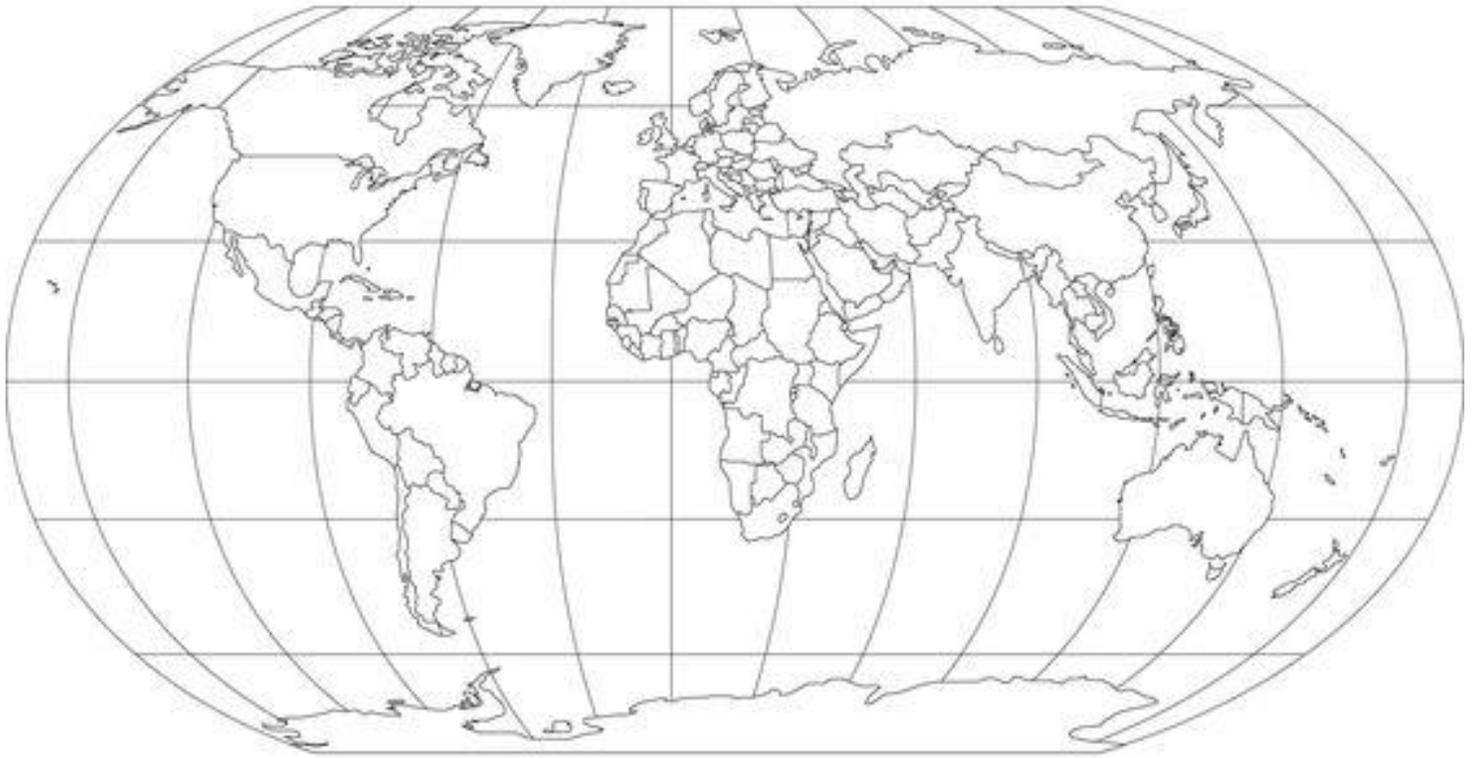
--[Washington Post](#)-- major news service out of D.C.

--[NPR](#)-- National Public Radio-- excellent to listen to, but you can also find major stories under the "world" or "U.S." links at the top

--[NYTimes](#) or [LATimes](#)-- major news service out of New York

*You may use the following map to locate each current event.

World Robinson Projection Map with Country Outlines



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