

# APES Summer Assignment 2023-2024

**Welcome to APES!** The purpose of the summer assignment is to introduce you to some of the major themes that will be covered in AP Environmental Science. We will draw upon the concepts presented here throughout the year, so it is important that you complete this work before school begins. The more you engage with this material over summer, the more prepared you will be for the class.

I look forward to working with you next year!

Your summer assignment has **3 components** and will be **due Friday, September 8, 2023 on Schoology.**

## READ

Order your textbook, Friedland and Reylea's *Environmental Science for AP* (4<sup>th</sup> Edition). Read Module 0, *What Is Environmental Science?*, and take notes for an open note quiz at the beginning of the year.



## WATCH

Watch ONE environmental documentary from the list of nine options below. Full descriptions and links are on the following page. The movies fall into three general categories that will be fundamental in our studies this year: Food & Agriculture, Pollution, and Global Change. Choose which movie interests you, grab some popcorn, and enjoy! You will write a paper (see below) on this documentary so take notes where you see fit. Many of the documentaries can be found at a local library, on Netflix, or simply on YouTube.

Food & Agriculture	Pollution	Global Change
Cowspiracy	A Plastic Ocean	Before the Flood
Food, Inc.	Plastic Paradise	Chasing Coral
GMO OMG	The True Cost	Racing Extinction

## WRITE

Compose a paper (about 2-3 pages double-spaced) on the movie you chose that includes:

Part I - Summary & Reflection: Summarize the environmental documentary you watched. Your summary should also include your own personal reflection and opinion of the film.

Part II - Environmental Issue & Solutions: Describe, with detail, one environmental issue discussed in the movie. Does the film do a good job presenting the issue? Is a viable solution for the issue presented in the movie? If not, explain why you think a solution was not presented and suggest a possible solution based on what you learned while watching.

Part III – Anecdotes: Documentaries frequently use anecdotes or a story to illuminate a major point, and these can be powerfully illustrative. Describe one story from the movie that you would share if you were discussing this movie with friends. Explain why you feel this example best illustrates or effectively communicates what the documentary is trying to say.




# FILM OPTIONS

You only need to watch ONE movie from the list of nine options. Of course, you are welcome to watch the others if you are interested and have the time. Below are the descriptions (adapted from various internet sources) to help you decide. We will discuss the documentaries in class in September.




## Theme: FOOD & AGRICULTURE

<p><b>Cowspiracy</b> (2014, 1 hr 31 min)</p>	<p>Trailer: <a href="http://www.cowspiracy.com">http://www.cowspiracy.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Synopsis:</b> <i>Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret</i> is a groundbreaking environmental documentary following filmmaker Kip Andersen as he uncovers the most destructive industry facing the planet today. Animal agriculture is the leading cause of deforestation, water consumption and pollution, is responsible for more greenhouse gasses than the transportation industry, and is a primary driver of rainforest destruction, species extinction, habitat loss, topsoil erosion, ocean “dead zones,” and virtually every other environmental ill. Yet it goes on, almost entirely unchallenged.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Available on Netflix</b></p>
<p><b>Food, Inc.</b> (2008; 1 hr 34 min)</p>	<p>Trailer: <a href="https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1286537/">https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1286537/</a></p>
	<p><b>Synopsis:</b> In <i>Food, Inc.</i>, filmmaker Robert Kenner lifts the veil on our nation's food industry. Our nation's food supply is now controlled by a handful of corporations that often put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of the American farmer, the safety of workers and our own environment. We have bigger-breasted chickens, the perfect pork chop, herbicide-resistant soybean seeds, even tomatoes that won't go bad, but we also have new strains of E. coli—the harmful bacteria that causes illness for an estimated 73,000 Americans annually. We are riddled with widespread obesity, particularly among children, and an epidemic level of diabetes among adults.</p> <p><b>Full movie on YouTube:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGrpgPQFU3A">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGrpgPQFU3A</a></p>
<p><b>GMO OMG</b> (2013, 85 minutes)</p>	<p>Trailer: <a href="http://www.gmofilm.com/official-trailer.aspx">http://www.gmofilm.com/official-trailer.aspx</a></p>
	<p><b>Synopsis:</b> Today in the United States, by the simple acts of feeding ourselves, we are unwittingly participating in the largest experiment ever conducted on human beings. Each of us unknowingly consumes genetically engineered food on a daily basis. The risks and effects to our health and the environment are largely unknown. Yet more and more studies are being conducted around the world, which only provide even more reason for concern. GMO OMG tells the story of a father's discovery of GMOs in relation to his 3 young children and the world around him.</p>

## Theme: POLLUTION

<p><b>A Plastic Ocean</b> (2013, 1 hr 42 min)</p>	<p>Trailer: <a href="https://plasticoceans.org/about-a-plastic-ocean/">https://plasticoceans.org/about-a-plastic-ocean/</a></p>
	<p><b>Synopsis:</b> A Plastic Ocean begins when journalist Craig Leeson, searching for the elusive blue whale, discovers plastic waste in what should be pristine ocean. In this adventure documentary, Craig teams up with free diver Tanya Streeter and an international team of scientists and researchers, and they travel to twenty locations around the world over the next four years to explore the fragile state of our oceans, uncover alarming truths about plastic pollution, and reveal working solutions that can be put into immediate effect.</p>
<p><b>Plastic Paradise</b> (2013, 57 min)</p>	<p>Trailer: <a href="http://plasticparadisemovie.com">http://plasticparadisemovie.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Synopsis:</b> Every single piece of plastic that has ever been created since the 19<sup>th</sup> century is still somewhere on our planet. So if it never goes away, where does it go? Thousands of miles away from civilization, Midway Atoll is in one of the most remote places on earth. And yet it's become ground zero for The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, syphoning plastics from three distant continents. In this independent documentary film, journalist/filmmaker Angela Sun travels on a personal journey of discovery to uncover this mysterious phenomenon. Along the way she meets scientists, researchers, influencers, and volunteers who shed light on the effects of our rabid plastic consumption and learns the problem is more insidious than we could have ever imagined.</p>
<p><b>The True Cost</b> (2015, 1 hr 32 min)</p>	<p>Trailer: <a href="https://truecostmovie.com">https://truecostmovie.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Synopsis:</b> This is a story about clothing. It's about the clothes we wear, the people who make them, and the impact the industry is having on our world. The price of clothing has been decreasing for decades, while the human and environmental costs have grown dramatically. The True Cost is a groundbreaking documentary film that pulls back the curtain on the untold story and asks us to consider, who really pays the price for our clothing?</p> <p>Filmed in countries all over the world, from the brightest runways to the darkest slums, and featuring interviews with the world's leading influencers including Stella McCartney, Livia Firth and Vandana Shiva, The True Cost is an unprecedented project that invites us on an eye opening journey around the world and into the lives of the many people and places behind our clothes.</p>

## Theme: GLOBAL CHANGE

<p><b>Before the Flood</b> (2016, 1 hr 36 min)</p>	<p><b>Trailer:</b> <a href="https://www.beforetheflood.com">https://www.beforetheflood.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Synopsis:</b> Before the Flood, presented by National Geographic, features Leonardo DiCaprio on a journey as a United Nations Messenger of Peace, traveling to five continents and the Arctic to witness climate change firsthand. He goes on expeditions with scientists uncovering the reality of climate change and meets with political leaders fighting against inaction. He also discovers a calculated disinformation campaign orchestrated by powerful special interests working to confuse the public about the urgency of the growing climate crisis. With unprecedented access to thought leaders around the world, DiCaprio searches for hope in a rising tide of catastrophic news.</p> <p><b>Full movie on YouTube:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbEnOYtsXHA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbEnOYtsXHA</a></p>
<p><b>Chasing Coral</b> (2017, 1 hr 33 min)</p>	<p><b>Trailer:</b> <a href="https://www.chasingcoral.com/about-the-film/">https://www.chasingcoral.com/about-the-film/</a></p>
	<p><b>Synopsis:</b> Coral reefs around the world are vanishing at an unprecedented rate. A team of divers, photographers and scientists set out on a thrilling ocean adventure to discover why and to reveal the underwater mystery to the world.</p> <p><b>Available on Netflix and YouTube</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGGBGcdjXA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGGBGcdjXA</a></p>
<p><b>Racing Extinction</b> (2015, 1 hr 34 min)</p>	<p><b>Trailer:</b> <a href="https://racingextinction.com/film/">https://racingextinction.com/film/</a></p>
	<p><b>Synopsis:</b> A documentary that follows undercover activists trying to stave off an anthropogenic mass extinction. Utilizing state-of-the-art equipment, Oscar-winner Louie Psihoyos (The Cove) assembles a team of artists and activists intent on showing the world never-before-seen images that expose issues of endangered species and mass extinction. Whether infiltrating notorious black markets with guerrilla-style tactics or exploring the scientific causes affecting changes to the environment, Racing Extinction will change the way we see the world and our role within it.</p> <p><b>Full movie on YouTube:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asIfLVA7Zv4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asIfLVA7Zv4</a></p>