AP Human Geography Summer Work: News Log

Become a geographer of the modern world! AP Human Geography is about understanding how people, places, and environments interact at local, national, and global scales. Throughout the summer, you will follow current events and analyze them through the lens of human geography.

PART I

For this assignment, you will track three ongoing news stories throughout the summer:

- one local story from your region (eg, Massachusetts, Greater Seoul, etc.),
- one national story (within your country),
- and one international story (involving at least two countries; can include your home country, too).

You will revisit each story four times over the course of the summer in order to observe how geographic issues develop over time.

Your stories should connect to themes we study in AP Human Geography, such as:

- Population demographics
- Migration
- Language
- Religion
- Politics
- Agriculture
- Urbanization
- Economics
- Industrialization
- Climate and the environment

You may use a Google Doc to track your reading, or you may keep your log on paper.

Requirements:

Track Three Stories

Follow:

- one local story
- one national story
- one international story

Read Four Articles Per Story

Find and read four articles about each topic, published between 6/1 and 8/20.

Articles may come from newspapers, magazines, reputable news websites, or long-form journalism sources.

Write a Geographic Analysis for Each Article

For each article, fill out the graphic organizer including the following information:

1. **Summary**
    - What happened?
    - What new developments occurred since the last article?
2. **Geographic Connection**
    - Which AP Human Geography theme or unit does this relate to?
    - How does geography help explain the issue?
3. **Scale**
    - How does this event affect people at the local, regional, national, or global level?
4. **Vocabulary/Concepts**
    - Use at least one AP Human Geography term or concept correctly in each entry.
    - A list of AP Human Geography vocabulary is provided below

Citations

Include an MLA citation for each article.

Academic Integrity

Your writing should reflect your own thinking and analysis. I will not accept responses that appear AI-generated or overly edited by AI writing tools.

Sources

NPR
Reuters
AP News
BBC
Al Jazeera
New York Times
The Economist

Assessment

Your graphic organizer will be graded with the following rubric:

Criteria	Exemplary	Proficient	Developing	Incomplete
Article Selection & Completion (4 pts)	**4** – Includes all required articles: 3 topics (local, national, international) with 4 articles each; articles are appropriate, current, and clearly connected to human geography themes.	**3** – Missing one article or one story category; most articles connect to APHG themes.	**2** – Missing multiple articles or categories; some articles weakly connected to APHG.	**0–1** – Major portions incomplete or articles unrelated to assignment goals.
Summary & Understanding (4 pts)	**4** – Summaries are clear, accurate, and thoughtful; demonstrates strong understanding of how the story developed over time.	**3** – Summaries are accurate and complete with some explanation of story development.	**2** – Summaries are simplistic, repetitive, or partially inaccurate; limited explanation of changes over time.	**0–1** – Summaries are incomplete, unclear, or missing.
Geographic Analysis (4 pts)	**4** – Strong analysis connecting events to AP Human Geography concepts, themes, or processes; clearly explains geographic significance and scale.	**3** – Adequate geographic analysis with some explanation of APHG connections.	**2** – Limited or vague geographic analysis; connections to APHG are weak or underdeveloped.	**0–1** – Little to no geographic analysis present.

Use of APHG Vocabulary (4 pts)	**4** – Correctly and effectively uses APHG vocabulary throughout the organizer; terms strengthen analysis.	**3** – Uses appropriate APHG vocabulary with minor errors or inconsistencies.	**2** – Uses few APHG terms or uses terms incorrectly.	**0–1** – APHG vocabulary absent or largely incorrect.
Organization, Citations, & Academic Integrity (4 pts)	**4** – Graphic organizer is neat, organized, and easy to follow; all MLA citations included and formatted appropriately; writing reflects original student work.	**3** – Mostly organized with minor citation or formatting issues.	**2** – Disorganized in places; multiple citation errors or concerns about incomplete work.	**0–1** – Difficult to follow, citations largely missing, or evidence of academic dishonesty/AI misuse.

PART II

When we return from break, you will be asked to write a short essay (five paragraphs) explaining how one of the news stories you followed exemplifies a theme of this class.

PART III

Finally, I have provided a list of books that I hope you will consider reading over the summer. This is not mandatory, but each of these titles will give you a new insight into the ideas that are more essential to this course.