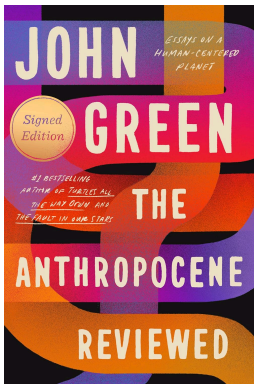
School of the Arts
Advanced Placement English Language and Composition
2026-27 Summer Reading Selections

Instructions:
Read and annotate *The Anthropocene Reviewed*, and read at least one other book. No annotations are required for other books.
Evaluation:

1) *Anthropocene* annotations will be graded using the rubric on the next page.
2) Students will participate in graded discussions and projects on the books.

Please email questions to patrick_martin@charleston.k12.sc.us



The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays on a Human-Centered Planet

Goodreads Choice winner for Nonfiction 2021 and instant #1 bestseller! A deeply moving collection of personal essays from John Green, the author of *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Turtles All the Way Down*.

"*The Anthropocene Reviewed* is essential to the human conversation." –*Library Journal*, starred review

The Anthropocene is the current geologic age, in which humans have profoundly reshaped the planet and its biodiversity. In this remarkable symphony of essays adapted and expanded from his groundbreaking podcast, bestselling author John Green reviews different facets of the human-centered planet on a five-star scale—from the QWERTY keyboard and sunsets to Canada geese and Penguins of Madagascar.

Funny, complex, and rich with detail, the reviews chart the contradictions of contemporary humanity. As a species, we are both far too powerful and not nearly powerful enough, a paradox that came into sharp focus as we faced a global pandemic that both separated us and bound us together.

John Green's gift for storytelling shines throughout this masterful collection. *The Anthropocene Reviewed* is a open-hearted exploration of the paths we forge and an unironic celebration of falling in love with the world.

Choice Book (no annotations required)

In addition to the book above, you are also **required** to read **AT LEAST** one choice book over the summer, if not several. Your selections can come from this recommended reading list https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K5Jqzhxi0uzAiDXj2LD2L7Y2-DvUU3xB/view?usp=sharing or be suggested by a parent, guardian, sibling, friend, or trusted review. It's essential that these books are both challenging and appropriate for your grade level. Engaging with complex texts will not only enhance your reading skills but also deepen your understanding of diverse perspectives and ideas. Continual reading cultivates a habit of lifelong learning and critical thinking, skills that are invaluable both in and out of the classroom. This practice will be particularly beneficial as you tackle the rigorous curriculum of AP Language and Composition. Happy reading!

AP Language Annotation Rubric for Book				
CATEGORY	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D/F**
Quantity	***At least*** 15 pages of concentrated annotations and/or a total of at least 75 marginal notes. Concentrated annotations are when all of the five types below are concentrated on one page in the book.	10-14 pages of concentrated annotations and/or a total of about 60 marginal notes.	8-10 pages of concentrated annotations and/or a total of about 50 marginal notes.	Fewer than 8 pages of concentrated annotations and/or 40 marginal notes.
Quality	***Conscientious balance*** between: Definitions, Elements, Personal Reactions, Questions, and Summary	***Adequate balance*** between: Definitions, Elements, Personal Reactions, Questions, and Summary	***Lopsided*** between: Definitions, Elements, Personal Reactions, Questions, and Summary	***Insufficient variety*** between: Definitions, Elements, Personal Reactions, Questions, and Summary
Thoroughness	Annotations are balanced ***throughout*** the book with attention to the first and last sections.	Annotations are *scarcely* balanced throughout the book with attention to the first and last sections.	Annotations are concentrated in random parts of the book without enough attention to the first and last sections.	Annotations are not adequately balanced throughout the text.
Neatness/ Insight	Annotations are legible and show a genuine attempt to engage with the book in insightful ways. Annotations go well beyond one-word labeling.	Annotations, although legible, lack an attempt to engage with the book in insightful ways. Annotations go beyond labeling.	Annotations are not always legible and lack a genuine attempt to engage with the book in insightful ways. Annotations go beyond labeling.	Annotations are not always legible and reveal a minimal attempt to engage with the book in insightful ways.