

AP Human Geography Summer Assignment

Mrs. Lyons

Andrea.M.Lyons@mcpsmd.net

Human Geography is a unique subject to study and requires the student to look with a different perspective on the way humanity interacts with the world. The class will require students to reflect on and use their own experiences. This summer assignment is designed to give you some common experiences and knowledge. I have also included some “suggested” assignments that you might want to do to make your experience a little easier.

Required Assignment: A Geographer’s Journal

Required Supplies: A journal that you can write in. You will be using this throughout the year so make sure you do not get a small one. A composition notebook is a good size.

You are to do five (5) of the following 16 assignments. In the journal, you must **write about what you did and your observations**. I want you to have fun with this so you can be as original as you would like. Be creative but also be **observant**. You can put pictures in this but you must also write things down. There is no “right” or “wrong”, there is **only depth of your experience and observations**. The only requirement is the word count. **You must write at least 300 words for each assignment. You will be graded on the apparent effort you put into your journal.**

1. Eat 3 traditional meals from different countries (Fast food and chain restaurants do not fit this assignment). They must be authentic meals. It would be best to have a native of the country prepare them. If your family is from a different country, that country’s cuisine does not count.
2. Go someplace that requires you to use a mode of transportation that you have never used before (boat, train, plane, bike, foot)
3. Go to a different country for a couple of days
4. Go to a different state for a couple of days
5. Go to some place you have never been but have wanted to go
6. Go to the weekly ceremony of a different religion (Sabbath for Judaism, Mosque for Islam, or temple for Hinduism or Buddhism). It is better to go with a friend and make sure you get permission from the religious leader.
7. Go to three (3) different sporting events (professional or semi-professional) and do a quick comparison and contrast of the fans of each of the sports. Also note what kind of food is being offered, what sort of cheers, what sort of activities that go on.
8. Keep a running map of your travels around the DMV (DC, Maryland, and Virginia). Identify roads, towns, malls, and any other significant landmark.
9. Map and take 3 different routes to a place you go to a lot (Mall, theater, friend’s house, etc). Make sure that you put names of streets, landmarks, towns, and interesting sights.
10. Read one of the books (on the attached list) and write about your impressions of it include a list of any questions that were sparked by the book. Draw a map for the book. If you think another book would be a good substitute, please email me and get my permission.
11. Send 4 postcards from 4 different places to RM addressed:
Andrea Lyons
Richard Montgomery High School
250 Richard Montgomery Dr.
Rockville, MD 20852
12. Take a guided tour of a local spot (somewhere in MD, DC, VA).
13. Tape a map of the world into your journal (a blank political one is best). Watch the news several times a week and keep a running tab of countries that are involved in the stories, either actively or passively.

After 6 weeks, notice there is a pattern that develops and express your opinion on why that pattern exists.

14. Get lost (in a safe area) and then use a map, not GPS, to get back from where you started.
15. Watch 2 of the movies attached to this assignment. Record your observations and reactions to the movie and any questions you have.
16. Interview someone who migrated to the US. Record your questions and their answers in your journal.
17. SPECIAL OPTION!!!! PARTICIPATION IN THIS EVENT WILL SATISFY YOUR ENTIRE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT!!!! Students from a high school in Japan will be visiting with us on August 21st or 22nd. I am looking for students to attend this meeting and discuss the following topics with their students. If you are interested please let me know as soon as possible by emailing me at Andrea_M_Lyons@mcpsmd.org

- Aging Society in Japan
- US Military Bases in Japan
- Gender Issues in Japan

Hints: Keep ticket stubs. Buy postcards. Take pictures. Eat at different places. Do things that you would not normally do. Keep your eyes open for new things, different things, and the same old things.

Quality, creativity, diversity of the approach to the assignment and journal will improve your grade. Do not simply write what you saw. Write about the questions that came to your mind. Write about how the assignments made you feel. Follow up your assignment by doing some research on the things you saw and did.

LOOK, THINK, QUESTION, WRITE....Do all in your journal

Warning: This is not a creative writing assignment. You are to observe, react, and write.

Warning: This is not a strict scientific observation assignment. You are to react to what you see and do.

Suggested Assignments: These are **not** required but they might help you in the upcoming class.

- Buy an atlas
- Get a world map and know the name, location, and capital of all the countries in the world (you will be learning them over the course of the first quarter). An effective way is to use flash cards or various websites.
- Be able to draw a basic map of the DC Metro area (main roads, towns, rivers, etc)
- **Watch and/or read the world news (BBC, Sky Net, Al Jazeera, etc)**
- Watch the Discovery Channel, National Geographic Channel, and the History Channel
- Learn how to make power point presentations
- Learn how to effectively search the Internet
- Try different things- food, music, etc
- Talk to people from different countries
- Visit museums
- Develop an on-going list of websites where you can find statistical data about the Maryland, the US, and the world (population, economics, etc)

Book List

The Hundred Year Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared by Jonas Jonasson

The Martian by Andy Weir

World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War by Max Brooks

The Cellist of Sarajevo by Steven Galloway

Balkan Ghosts by Robert D. Kaplan

The Bookseller of Kabul by Asne Seierstad (trans. Ingrid Christophersen)

The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay

I, Robot by Isaac Asimov

Playing the Enemy by John Carlin

Movie List

A Day Without a Mexican

I Dreamed of Africa

In America

The Motorcycle Diaries (rated R must get permission to watch)

My Big Fat Greek Wedding

The Secret of Roan Inish

The Snow Walker

The Story of the Weeping Camel

Whale Rider

Children of Men (rated R must get permission to watch)

Bend it Like Beckham

Argo (rated R must get permission to watch)

Blood Diamond (rated R must get permission to watch)

Outsourced

Slumdog Millionaire (rated R must get permission to watch)

Anna and the King

Babies

Black Hawk Down (rated R must get permission to watch)

Braveheart (rated R must get permission to watch)

Circle of Friends

City of Joy

Dirt! The Movie

Eat, Pray, Love

El Norte (rated R must get permission to watch)

Flow: For Love of Water

Food, Inc.

Future of Food

Gangs of New York (rated R must get permission to watch)

Good Bye Lenin (rated R must get permission to watch)

Good Kurds, Bad Kurds

Invictus

Kite Runner

Kumare

Little Buddha

Memoirs of a Geisha

My Fair Lady

Not Without My Daughter

Paradise Now

Roger & Me

Seven Years in Tibet

Tapped

The Color of Friendship

The Day After Tomorrow

The Karate Kid

The Killing Fields (*rated R must get permission to watch*)

The Last Emperor

The Last Samuri

The Last King of Scotland

The Namesake