

AP English Language and Composition 2022-23

Summer Assignment

Assignment: Read (and annotate) *The Anthropocene Reviewed* by John Green (ISBN: 0525556532)

We're changing things up a little bit next year in AP English Language, and that starts with the summer assignment. Probably in your last Language Arts class you concentrated on reading both fictional and non-fictional works and learned how to elaborate on a topic through your own writing. Sometimes those essays you wrote were interesting, but a lot of the time they might have felt a little formulaic or artificial. But that's not what essays tend to read like outside of assessment-style writing and before we launch into a year of exploring good writing, I want to help you reshape your opinion of the essay.

So, as an introduction to the different ways we will think about writing next year in AP Language, I thought that it might be refreshing to read a selection of intriguing essays. John Green, who you may know as the author of *The Fault in Our Stars*, *Turtles All the Way Down*, *Looking for Alaska*, *Paper Towns*, or perhaps from his online Crash Course videos, has recently—as in last year—published a clever book titled *The Anthropocene Reviewed*. He explains the complex title and the quirky way his reviewing began in the book's intro (so you should definitely start there). My hope is that Green's musings on topics ranging from Super Mario Kart to Velociraptors to Diet Dr. Pepper to the Notes App among so many more will help you to discover that essays can be more dynamic, compelling, fresh, and, frankly, more exciting than you may have previously believed.

When we return to school in August, we will be spending the first several weeks working with what you've learned from *The Anthropocene Reviewed* and it will be the source of our first few weeks of curriculum. This is to say that you need to read the book to be prepared to return to school. And that's all: there is no written component to this assignment; we'll do that the first few weeks. I just want you to include one book in your summer fun. If I were a student heading into my first AP English class and I knew my teacher has taught AP Lang for a lot of years, I would get my own copy of Green's book and annotate it as I read through, noting things like interesting textual components or how he uses evidence to support his arguments or fun word choice or record ideas I might want to think about more.

Please email me if you have questions about the assignment and I look forward to hearing your opinions about *The Anthropocene Reviewed* and so many other issues in the fall!



Ms. Sheri Hjelm

sheri.hjelm@ocps.net