

Summer Reading Assignments

English 4

Novel: *The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essay's on a Human-Centered Planet* by John Green

- **Potential Sensitivity Issues:** Depression and other mental health issues

There are two parts to your summer assignment as you read John Green's collection of essays: annotations and a mini essay. We will begin the first day of class with a discussion of the novel, and **you should be prepared to be tested on the information within the first week of classes.**

Essay Rubric:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oycbqLSPpKC8ZQ3CGxDzicyX7YXD2KrT/edit?usp=sharing&oid=104831359813127444630&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Please read below for the description of your assignments...

Annotations

- You will turn your book in on the first day of class so the annotations can be graded.
- Part of engaging with text is writing within the book, highlighting, asking questions, and making connections. Annotating fiction and nonfiction books differ in annotating strategies because of the content. Non-fiction does not follow a typical exposition, rising action, and climax structure. As you read, make annotations. You do not need to answer the questions below, the acronym and its description acts as a guide for what to look for.
- Follow this acronym so your annotations do the work for you:

Diction: How do the denotative (dictionary) meanings and connotative (emotional) meanings of words compare? Different words for the same thing often suggest different attitudes (for example, happy vs. content or happy vs. ecstatic).

Images: How are vivid appeals to understanding made through the five senses (hearing, seeing, touching, tasting, smelling)?

Details: How are vivid appeals to understanding made through the five senses (hearing, seeing, touching, tasting, smelling)?

Language: What is the overall use of language? Is it formal, informal, clinical, slang, dialect? What is the effect?

Syntax: How does the sentence structure promote the message? Long, flowing sentences give a different feeling than short, choppy ones. If the narrator has awkward sentence

structure, we might think he is uneducated, while long, flowing sentences might suggest sophistication or artistic creativity.

Mini Essay

- The essay should be printed and turned in on the first day of class. There will also be a dropbox located on Canvas where you will submit your essay so it can be reviewed by TurnItIn. ****12pt. font and Times New Roman, double spaced**
- This essay is meant to demonstrate your reading comprehension and writing capabilities. Your style should be formal or academic in nature. Meaning, you should not sound as though you are texting your best friend.
- You should include a proper heading and citations. Proper citations, for the purpose of this essay, include the page number where your reference or quote is located inside of parenthesis before your ending punctuation of said sentence.
- In English classes, you will follow proper MLA citations, if you have questions on formatting please refer to:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html
- ***Words to stay away from:*** basically, like, so, really, that, 'you know', almost, always, literally, actually, seriously, just

Choose from one of the three prompts below:

Student Prompt: Write a short (1-3 paragraph) response using one of the below bulleted outlines. Cite details from the text over the course of your response that serve as examples and support.

1. In Chapter 4, Green says that “[A]esthetic beauty is as much about how and whether you look as what you see. From the quark to the supernova, the wonders do not cease. It is our attentiveness that is in short supply, our ability and willingness to do the work that awe requires” (33).

- What does Green mean by this quote? (*topic sentence*)
- Give evidence from three different essays in this collection that supports your interpretation.
- In your concluding sentence or sentences, show how this quote relates to the collection’s thematic concern with The Power of Hope and Love.

2. In this collection, Green mentions his home city, Indianapolis, several times.

- How does Green’s attitude toward Indianapolis reflect his ideas about what is best and what is worst in human nature? (*topic sentence*)
- Give evidence from three different essays in this collection that supports your argument.
- In your concluding sentence or sentences, show how Green’s attitude toward Indianapolis relates to one or more of the collection’s thematic concerns: The Power of Hope and Love, The Pros and Cons of Guilty Pleasures, Building the World Together, and The Dangerous Uncertainties of Life.

3. In his frequent mentions of great innovators, Green generally emphasizes the context of their innovations.

- What point is Green making by highlighting the contributions of others to the work of great innovators? (*topic sentence*)
- Give three examples from different sections of the text that support your interpretation.
- In your concluding sentence or sentences, show how this aspect of the text supports the collection’s larger thematic concern with Building the World Together.