

Summer Reading Assignments

English 4 Honors

WARNING: *If the assignments are not completed on time, are incomplete, plagiarism is detected there is a possibility you may be asked to be placed in the appropriate alternative English class. All assignments are due on the first day of class and will be turned in through canvas, unless stated otherwise. Be prepared to be tested on the reading material the first week of school.*

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

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

Honors: There are two parts to your summer assignment as you read John Green's collection of essays: annotations and an 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.

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.

Essay

- The essay should be printed and turned in on the first day of class, but there will also be a canvas drobox open to run it through TurnItIn. **12pt. font and Times New Roman, double spaced**
- This is essay is meant to demonstrate your reading comprehension and writing capabilities.
- Basic Requirements
 - o Your style should be formal or academic in nature. Meaning, you should not sound as though you are texting your best friend.
 - o 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*
- Essay Rubric:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oycbqLSPpKC8ZQ3CGxDzicyX7YXD2KrT/edit?usp=sharing&oid=104831359813127444630&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Choose from one of the three prompts below:

Full Essay Assignments

Student Prompt: Write a structured and well-developed essay. Include a thesis statement, at least three main points supported by text details, and a conclusion (minimum 5 paragraphs maximum 7).

1. What relationship does Green posit between love and hope? Does one lead to the other, or are they mutually reinforcing? Do they depend on one another in some way? Write an essay in

which you analyze the relationship between hope and love revealed by the essays in *The Anthropocene Reviewed*. Show how this relationship illuminates the collection's thematic concern with The Power of Hope and Love. Support your assertions with evidence from throughout the text, citing any quoted material.

2. How does Green structure his essay? What kinds of topics does Green choose, and how does he manage to convey larger ideas through these topics? Does he use analogy, symbolism, allegory, or some other technique? Demonstrate your understanding of Green's style and structure by writing your own *Anthropocene-Reviewed*-style essay. Choose a topic that would be at home in this collection. Write an essay on this topic that mimics Green's characteristic structure, style, and tone. Using techniques similar to Green's, connect your topic to one or more of Green's themes: **The Power of Hope and Love**, **The Pros and Cons of Guilty Pleasures**, **Building the World Together**, and **The Dangerous Uncertainties of Life**.

3. *The Anthropocene Reviewed* mimics the reviews people might write about movies, books, and other cultural artifacts. What is Green's purpose in choosing this structure for the book? What patterns do you notice in the number of stars different phenomena are assigned? Do they group ideas in any way? Are the specific star assignments meant earnestly or ironically? Does the mimicry of reviews as a whole function earnestly or ironically? Is there any element of either parody or satire in this collection? Write an essay that analyzes the rhetorical purposes of mimicking "star" reviews in this collection. Support your analysis with evidence drawn from throughout the collection.