**Rationale:** Why have a summer assignment at all? This is specifically important for incoming freshmen. Not many people WANT summer work and I sympathize.

In order to appropriately prepare you for success in skills and university level content I want to introduce you to a few major concepts from the course BEFORE we get started. The readings and tasks that follow are designed to help you hit the ground running on **DAY ONE**. I guarantee we will reflect back on this summer work throughout the course.

Additionally, your summer work gives me the opportunity to intervene EARLY for students that need help. The work offers me a glimpse at what you are capable of as a student.

**Tasks:** You will find attached **five articles/video links from various sources**. Each one was chosen for a specific concept, and each relates to one or more of the units we’ll study throughout the year. Each link is followed by questions or tasks you should address. When answering the questions, use evidence from the article coupled with your own analysis. There are opportunities for you to further your own opinion/understanding. Before each article is some contextual information linking the reading to things we will be studying in class. Read these contextualizing hints BEFORE the article.

**Format:** Create a document and title each of the question sets with the corresponding number and title. Each answer should be formatted in complete sentences/paragraphs unless the prompt specifies otherwise. When providing opinion, please explain your perspective. Make sure to edit your work before final submission.

**Due Date:** All assignments must be completed by the end of the first week of classes. You’ll be submitting your work through Google Classroom. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact me at jpullen@asd103.org.

Students that have not completed the summer work are subject to removal from the AP Human Geography program.
Reading #1: Human and Environmental Interactions

For all of human history man has been has been facilitated by and limited in part by his environment. There were rarely human settlements in regions that are hard to live in; areas that are too wet, too cold, too high, or too dry.

Earliest man modified his environment in simple ways, constructing shelter and controlling food sources. Over time, human life grew more complex, so have these environmental modifications. The following link takes you to fourteen satellite photos that illustrate massive examples of human and environmental interactions.


Instructions- For each of the fourteen images, describe the change you see and give YOUR OPINION on the change. The following is an example reflecting on the first image.

Brazilian Rainforest

Description- The photographs show a space of over 100 kilometers of rainforest. The 1975 photo is almost entirely green where as the photo from 2009 shows expanding lines of what we can assume are cleared areas. The 2009 photo is almost entirely light brown.

Opinion- Although clearing forests is in no way a new activity, the extent and rapidity that is demonstrated in this photo set is mind blowing. I can only imagine that this type of clearing occurs because of rapidly expanding populations. Rainforest soil isn’t great for agriculture so once the cleared area is farmed for awhile, new areas must soon be cleared. This doesn’t seem to be sustainable in the long term.

Listening/Watching #2- Migrations and Intensification: Crash Course Big History #7

This YouTube clip is produced by the Green brothers and fits TONS of history/geography into 14 minutes. It covers some of the really big picture ideas of early human history. Despite being so long ago the long term events and processes described have a major impact on the way that we view modern cultural geography. The Greens talk FAST, don’t hesitate to stop and rewind! Is there a term or a phrase that one uses that you’re unfamiliar with? Pause the clip and look it up.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oy2XJMczUNc

Answer the following questions during/after viewing the clip. It might take a few views.

1. How have people made a living for the majority of human history?
2. What caused the first big human migration?
3. Why was the advent of agriculture (purposeful tending of crops/animals) such a massive shift in human activity?
4. When Hank Green speaks about “states” what is he referring to? Where were the world’s first states?
5. Who were John Hobbes and Rousseau?
6. Why do you think writing is linked to agriculture? Explain.
7. What is “carrying capacity”?
Reading #3 – Mapping and Land Values

There are two main types of maps. **Reference** maps are used for navigation whereas **thematic** maps tell you a story about a certain phenomenon. The following blog post highlights some innovative ways to communicate information using a type of thematic map called a **cartogram** while highlighting some massive wealth and land value disparity in the United States.


Questions:

1. What is a cartogram?
2. Why might property values be higher in some parts of the country and lower in others? What types of things might impact property values?
3. Why is a cartogram gif such a powerful way of displaying property values in the United States?
4. How would the cartogram be different if it used state boundaries rather than county boundaries?

Reading #4 – Cultural Borders and Boundaries

One of the major components of Human Geography is explaining how we define, delimit, and demarcate borders. Our organization of space and people can be political, cultural, economic, or social. In most cases it is all four. People’s perception of space and place is often contingent on your own experiences too! Where does the “bad” side of town start? This is a question that can elicit different answers from various people.

When reading this article think about other regions that you might be familiar with.

How would you define the Pacific Northwest? What characterizes the Pacific Northwest? Is it possible that someone would define the region differently that you would?


1. What are some implications of the title of this article, “Where Does the South Begin?”
2. The article identifies many different ways in which the South is identified. For each of the following list and explain some of the problems and some of the benefits of using the given variable to identify a border; survey/census, rivers, religion, language, food, and politics. You can create a chart or a graphic organizer to communicate this information.
**Reading #5- Globalization**

One of the major themes of the course is the topic of globalization – a term that is used very often and has multiple meanings. For our purposes, think of globalization as the interconnectedness of different places in the world. This means that various places on Earth that were once isolated from one another now interact, sometimes on a daily basis.

This interaction can be between individuals, imagine two people in different continents communicating via Twitter or Snapchat.

The interaction can also be between countries in one of the following ways, or between countries in one of the following ways:

- Economic (trade, multi-national corporations like McDonald’s or Wal-Mart)
- Political (warfare, organizations like the United Nations, NATO, or the European Union)
- Social/Cultural Elements/Values like clothing, music, social media, language, or food.

Globalization can be polarizing. Some people think it is awesome and others see it more negatively.

Read the article, “The Toxic Effects of Electronic Waste” and answer the questions below using the information above and the article. If you need to do any outside research to help familiarize yourself, do so!


Questions:

1. According to the article, where is the majority of “e-waste” generated? Where does that waste go?
2. List and briefly describe three different ways that e-waste negatively impacts people and the environment.
3. In a paragraph, explain how this topic links to globalization as described above.