AP Human Geography Students 2017-2018

Please complete the following assignment during the summer. All assignments are due to the main office at Jamestown High School by Fri. Aug 25th

A.P. Human Geography is designed to be the equivalent of an introductory, college-level geography course. Since geography is focused less on particular content and more on methodology, applying what you have learned will be a significant portion of this course. In addition, the expectations for student performance in this class are high and focus heavily on analytical and critical thinking skills. **It is a college-level course, it will be more demanding in quantity and quality of work than most classes you have taken to this point.** Your answers should be thoughtful and thorough.

This assignment will introduce you to some key concepts for the course: site, cultural landscape, physical landscape, region, culture and human-environment interaction. In addition, this assignment will help you to start thinking like a geographer and to start to develop the analytical skills necessary to be successful in AP Human Geography. You are expected to demonstrate a higher level of analysis, interpretation and insight beyond just a quick answer to the following questions. You should stop and really think about what you are observing and what it means, **work will be assessed based on the depth and quality of thought revealed in your answers.** All work is individual and the school honor code applies to this assignment. Please do not plagiarize nor turn in work that is not your own.

The following definitions may help-

*Cultural Landscape:* The visible human imprint activity on the landscape-the natural landscape that is modified by humans. The cultural landscape reflects the values, norms, and aesthetics of a culture. Human imprints includes: how people have changed and shaped the environment including buildings, signs, roads, gardens, trails, fences, sidewalks, and statues people erect. These are semi-permanent, built objects NOT people, cars, boats, things that move.

*Physical Landscape:* the natural features of the earth's surface, especially in its current aspects, including land formation, climate, currents, and distribution of flora and fauna

If you have any questions you can email Ms. Sandling at molly.sandling@wjccschools.org or Mrs. Demeo Katherine.demeo@wjccschools.org over the course of the summer.
Part I

1. First, write down your initial image or description of this place. What is your initial reaction to this place?

2. Look around you at the buildings, roads, signs, gardens, parks, yards.
   What are the dominant types of manmade structures: hotels, stores, restaurants, houses, parks, gardens? What do you see the most of? Why?
   How are the buildings and other manmade things you see (color, design, layout, architecture) similar to the same types of things in Williamsburg?
   How are the buildings and other manmade things you see (color, design, layout, architecture) different from the same types of things in Williamsburg?
   What businesses do you see, are there non-chains/stores or restaurants you have never seen before? What are they? What is unique about them—how are they different from the stores/restaurants in Williamsburg or why do they have this store/restaurant?
   What places did you eat or shop at those you know or local ones? Why?

3. Look around you at the natural features—rivers, mountains, forests, beach, etc. Not manmade green spaces like yards, parks or gardens.
   What is the dominant physical landscape—what types of landforms, climate and vegetation occur naturally here?
   Do you see a lot of natural features? Why or why not?
   How are the physical features similar to Williamsburg’s natural landscape? Why?
   How are the physical features different from Williamsburg’s natural landscape? Why?

4. Observe the people you see who are locals.
   Describe their accent, clothing, how similar to yours and how is it different (you will be marked down for criticizing them, just describe what you see or hear.)
   Where did you see or encounter the local people? What roles were they performing/what were they doing? What does that tell you about life in this place?
   How do most people here make a living/where and in what fields do they work? How can you tell?
   Can you find the neighborhoods where the people of this place live? What are their homes like—architecture, size, appearance? How similar are their neighborhoods to neighborhoods in Williamsburg? How different?
   Can you find a school in this place? What is it like? Can you find a Target or grocery store? How hard was it to find the neighborhoods and stores/schools? Why might this be?

5. How do the neighborhoods and business areas that the locals use (their Target/grocery store, school, library, post office, etc) differ from the areas designed for tourists? Think of several different ways—accessibility, visibility, layout, types of other stores and things present, landscaping, etc.

6. Why do most tourists come to this place that you are visiting—to do what kinds of activities? What have they done to preserve or protect the tourist site/what you came to see? Is it successful—are they able to protect the site and keep it as it was or what obstacles do they face? How does their attempts to protect the tourist site/what people come to see affect the appearance of the city/town?

7. What has this town or city done to provide for/attract/meet the needs of the tourists who come here? Have they built lots of hotels and restaurants? Have they built streets, parking lots or ramps to get people to the sites? Have they had to put up lots of signs the locals don’t need to help the tourists? Are there lots of souvenir shops and things not designed for locals?
8. Look at the brochures or postcards of this place you are visiting. How do the brochures and postcards show this place—what images or impressions are they trying to give you? If you looked only at the brochures and postcards, what would you think this place is like?

Does the image in the postcards/brochures match what it is really like? In what ways? Why or why not?

9. How have the things you listed in number 5 affected the site you came to see? Have all the things in #5 made the area more attractive or better to visit or have they made the area more congested or unattractive? Why? What do you think this place would look like if it wasn’t a tourist destination? Why?

10. Does this place stand out as unique and different from other places you have been? Why or why not? What makes it unique or not? Take a photo of both the distinctive physical landscape and the distinctive cultural landscape of this place (try to leave out signs or people).

11. Look back at your first answer, do you view this place differently now than when you first started this assignment? How? In what ways? Why/Why not?

12. Think about everything you have written. In what ways is tourism—being a tourist destination and having tourists visit and the things that have been built for tourists—good for this town/city? In what ways is tourism a negative for this city? (You should have multiple positives and negatives, be as thorough as possible in your list)
Now we are going to think about Williamsburg, where you live.

A. First, how would you describe where you live in the country (East Coast, Hampton Roads, Southeast Virginia, the South)? Why? What characteristics do you associate with the place in which we live?

B. Go to some local stores (around here that can be grocery stores/gas stations, etc) that sell postcards and identify the symbols, cultural characteristics or features of the cultural landscape that best represents the region in which you live—if you had to show someone who has never been here what your hometown is like which postcards would you use. Keep a tally of the number of times each theme appears. You should sample AT LEAST 20-30 postcards, and the more you use, the easier you task will be. (do not buy them)

C. Make a table of the dominant themes that appear on the postcards and the number of times you saw cards with this theme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THEME (as many as necessary)</th>
<th>NUMBER OF APPEARANCES</th>
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D. **Buy 5** postcards which you feel are the most representative of the region in which you live. You will hand in these 5 postcards. What are the themes of the postcards which you selected?

Card 1:

Card 2:

Card 3:

Card 4:

Card 5:

E. Respond to each of the following questions. Be thoughtful in your responses.

1. What is surprising to find in your list of dominant themes? What is missing from this list? Why is it surprising and why do you think the missing places should be represented?

2. Postcards are representations of a region designed for a specific purpose. What is the intent or purpose of these postcards? What message are they conveying about your region?

3. Different subcultures each have their own identity. Did you see examples of any “minority” cultures represented in our postcard themes, and if so, were those portrayals realistic? What groups, if any, were not represented?

4. Whose regional identity do you think these cards represent? In other words, whose belief system determines what imagery appears on the postcards for your region?