

Summer Assignment

When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe. - John Muir, environmentalist and founder of the Sierra Club.

The goal of AP Environmental Science is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them (College Entrance Examination Board, 2003).

In order to properly evaluate the environmental problems that are facing the world today, some knowledge of environmental past history is necessary. To that end, the summer assignment for this course will ask you to review some notable events of the past and to do some research on present problems in order that discussion may start the first full day of classes in the fall. The central question on which this assignment focuses asks, is the present day the first time that mankind has drastically altered the environment?

The Assignment (it has two parts!):

1. Read *Silent Spring* in its entirety.
 1. Handwritten note cards must be kept of your reading (or you may choose to annotate by underlining and tabbing the book), clearly identifying
 - i. important information
 - ii. details for all main points
 - iii. noting where Carson's opinions were expressed.
 - iv. your own comments on the current state of affairs with regard to Carson's opinions.
 2. You must also provide a short summary of the main thesis of the book on a separate note card.

N.B. The book must be obtained on your own. It is available in paperback, and yes, there is an electronically available student guide, BUT you are required to have the book (or obtain it from a library) and read it.

Your note cards (or annotated book [please **do not** use this option if the book comes from a library]) and summary will be collected for evaluation the first day of class (see grading rubric on eChalk for evaluation criteria).

3. As you research think about the following questions: Does your chosen issue qualify for consideration as a commons? What is the current state of affairs with regard to your issue in the United States, and world-wide?
4. On the first full day of classes bring your citation sheets and have available appropriately sourced pictures that support that research. You will work with others who have researched the same environmental issue to create a visual support of the collective research. The visual supports will be used in a gallery walk. Summaries and the constructed visual support will be graded.

N.B. all references used must be appropriate primary sources; 4 references minimum (Wikipedia, or other encyclopedias, and secondary sources do NOT count!); full MLA citations required (see eChalk for source guidelines, citation criteria, and grading rubric).

Works Cited:

College Entrance Examination Board. 2003. *2004, 2005 Course Description for AP Environmental Science*. New York: The College Board.

Lyman, Jennifer. 2002. *A Review of Silent Spring*. apcentral.collegeboard.com. Accessed May 27, 2005.

Questions? Mr. Funnell is available via email (mfunnell@klschools.org) or in person at JJHS from time to time during the summer, definitely the last two weeks in August.