

# Welcome to AP Human Geography!

Dear student,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Ulysses S. Grant College Prep & Digital Arts Magnet! We are going to have a lot of fun together this year in AP Human Geography. You have made a great decision in choosing to take this AP course—it is one of the few available to freshmen and will hopefully serve to motivate you to enroll in future AP classes.

As you may already know, Advanced Placement (AP) courses allow you to complete high school requirements and freshmen-level college credits at the same time. However, to receive credit when you go off to college, you will have to pass the AP exam at the end of the school year. (But don't start worrying about that just yet!) In addition to supporting your academic success in AP Human Geography, I hope to help you transition smoothly from middle school to high school.

I look forward to seeing you in August. In the meantime, please complete the summer assignment described below. It is due on the first day of school unless you'd prefer to email it to me before then. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Enjoy your summer!

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## Summer Assignment

Geographers, in general, study the Earth and its land, features, and inhabitants. They also examine phenomena such as political or cultural structures and study the physical and human geographic characteristics of regions ranging in scale from local to global. Human geographers, on the other hand, specifically study the science of the spatial organization of human action and the relationships between society and environment. Human geographers are especially concerned with human existence on our planet.

For this assignment, you will act as if you are a human geographer studying something you should be very knowledgeable about already—your own life! You will compose a brief essay in which you will respond to the following prompt:

*How has geography shaped who you are today?*

### *Questions to Consider*

The questions below should help you explore and organize your thoughts. However, while you should touch on them in your essay, you should not respond to them directly.

- Is someone shaped or influenced by where they grow up?
- What are some of your favorite spaces and locations? Please describe them with as much detail as possible.
- Why are these locations important to you?
- How does living in a city (versus a small town) shape one's perspective and understanding of the world?
- How does your geographic location influence the way you interact with others?

### *Essay Guidelines*

Your essay should be typed, approximately two pages long (double spaced), and should include a thesis statement, if possible. You should do your best on this essay. Don't let the assignment scare you, though—it simply serves as an opportunity for me to assess your skills. Ultimately, this will allow me support your achievement in AP Human Geography!

