

APES
(AP Environmental Science)

Summer Assignment
2016-2017

**Have fun & go APES this summer, but
don't procrastinate!**



Welcome to APES! AP Environmental Science is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science. APES is considered an interdisciplinary science in that it draws content from other natural sciences such as: biology, chemistry, ecology, geology, etc. The course studies these topics from the perspective of economists, philosophers, ethicists, scientists, etc. This course will require laboratory skills, content knowledge, and content application. **Being able to synthesize material and critically think is vital.** It will be taught with the rigor, pacing, and maturity level of a college course.

THE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT HAS 6 SECTIONS AND PAPERWORK TO HAND IN, SO BE SURE TO READ CAREFULLY. MAKE NOTE OF ALL DUE DATES! THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS MADE FOR LATE WORK AND NO LATE POINTS WILL BE AWARDED.

PART 1: E-mail me

I want to get to know a little bit about you before the school year begins. Please answer the questions (in Appendix A) honestly, as they will help me format the class for the year. I will reply so you are aware that I received your e-mail. Even though it is summer, remember to use proper grammar and punctuation! My e-mail address is: hellea@warrenhills.org. Please make your subject line "Your Name- APES Introduction". This is due by Monday July 11th, 2016. You will be getting points for the completion of this assignment.

PART 2: Sign-up for Edmodo and RemindMe

RemindMe: Send your text to the number: 81010
The class code to send in the message is: @bcg3g

Edmodo: Go to the website: <https://api.edmodo.com/register>

The group code is: **VpC8py**

Make your username the first letter of your first name and then your entire last name. (For example, my username would be: ahelle)

PART 3: Book Critique

For this part of the summer assignment you will be choosing ONE title from the following list of books. Read the book and complete a **3-5 page** book critique. See Appendix B for the format. I have a few extra copies of books that you may borrow for the summer. **You will need to ask to borrow the book before summer vacation begins. This will be due Friday September 9th.**

Book Options:

A Reason for Hope by Jane Goodall

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson

Garbology: Our Dirty Love Affair with Trash by Edward Humes

Toms River: A Story of Science and Salvation by Dan Fagin

The World Without Us by Alan Weisman

Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed by Jared Diamond

The Nature Principle: Reconnection with Life in the Virtual Age by Richard Louv

Earth, Making a Life on a Tough New Planet by Bill McKibbin

The Devouring Dragon: How China Threatens our Natural World by Craig Simons

Environmental Debt by Amy Larkin

When Smoke Ran Like Water by Devra Davis

Every Drop for Sale by Jeffrey Rothfeder

Part 4: Article Discussion

Read the *Time Magazine* article "Saving the Earth: The Challenges We Face". You can find this on my website under "APES Paperwork". As you read, note things that surprise you, questions you may have, etc. Construct a response (at least 5 sentences) to post to the discussion on Edmodo. **You must post your response by Monday August 29th (11:59PM).** You must comment on one other classmate's response by the first day of school, **September 6th (11:59PM).** Make sure your comment extends the discussion, is not derogatory, and is more than "good job". You will be getting credit for both your personal response and your comment on your classmate's response.



Part 5: Content

1. Attached is an “Eco-footprint Calculator” worksheet. Follow the instructions on the packet to complete the task. **This is due the 1st day of school (September 6th).**
2. Read the copied pages (attached) about Easter Island. This is one of the most important case studies in Environmental Science and as we learn new concepts you will need to be able to relate them to the happenings on Easter Island.
3. Watch the Screencast posted to the Edmodo discussion board (Environmental Basics). It will be posted by the first week in July. Take your own notes as it plays through. These are the notes for the first chapter and things you should be familiar with as the course progresses. **They will be on your first test (which will be in the first month of school).**

Part 6: Ethics Pledge

Attached is an Ethics Pledge regarding the rules for the completion of the summer assignment, as well as a few rules for the upcoming year. Please read and sign the pledge and have a parent/guardian sign as well. **This is due the first day of school (Sept. 6th).**



APPENDIX A

- ✓ What is your full name? Do you have a nickname you wish to be called?
- ✓ Why are you taking APES? What do you hope to get out of this class?
- ✓ What are you planning to do after high school? What career path would you like to take?
- ✓ What were your previous science classes? Who were your teachers?
- ✓ What are your study methods?
- ✓ How do you feel you learn best? (i.e. visual, kinesthetic, auditory, etc.)
- ✓ What are your hobbies, talents, etc.?
- ✓ What other responsibilities do you have outside of school?
- ✓ Anything else I should know about you?

APPENDIX B

How to Write a Review of a Nonfiction Book

A book review is a description, critical analysis, and an evaluation on the quality, meaning, and significance of a book, not a retelling. It should focus on the book's purpose, content, and authority. A critical book review is not a book report or a summary. **It is a reaction paper in which strengths and weaknesses of the material are analyzed. It should include a statement of what the author has tried to do, evaluate how well (in the opinion of the reviewer) the author has succeeded, and presents evidence to support this evaluation.** There is no right way to write a book review. Book reviews are highly personal and reflect the opinions of the reviewer.

Guidelines:

1. Write a statement giving essential information about the book: title, author, first copyright date, & type of book.
2. State the author's purpose in writing the book. Sometimes authors state their purpose in the preface or the first chapter. When they do not, you may arrive at an understanding of the book's purpose by asking yourself these questions:
 - Why did the author write on this subject rather than on some other subject?
 - From what point of view is the work written?
 - Was the author trying to give information, to explain something technical, to convince the reader of a belief's validity by dramatizing it in action?
- What is the general field or genre, and how does the book fit into it? Use outside sources to familiarize yourself with the field, if necessary. Knowledge of the genre means understanding the art form, and how it functions.
- Who is the intended audience?
- What is the author's style? Is it formal or informal? Evaluate the quality of the writing style by using some of the following standards: coherence, clarity, originality, forcefulness, correct use of technical words, conciseness, fullness of development, fluidity. Does it suit the intended audience?
- How did the book affect you? Were any previous ideas you had on the subject changed, abandoned, or reinforced due to this book? How is the book related to your own course or personal agenda? What personal experiences you've had relate to the subject?

3. State the theme and the thesis of the book.

a. **Theme:** The theme is the subject or topic. It is not necessarily the title, and it is usually not expressed in a complete sentence. It expresses a specific phase of the general subject matter.

b. **Thesis:** The thesis is an author's generalization about the theme, the author's beliefs about something important, the book's philosophical conclusion, or the proposition the author means to prove. Express it without metaphor or other figurative language, in one declarative sentence. This is in direct connection to Guideline #2.

Example

Title: We Had it Made

General Subject Matter: Religious Intolerance

Theme: The effects of religious intolerance on a small town

Thesis: Religious intolerance, a sickness of individuals, contaminates an entire social group

4. Explain the method of development—the way the author supports the thesis. Illustrate your remarks with specific references and quotations. In general, authors tend to use the following methods, exclusively or in combination.

a. **Description:** The author presents word-pictures of scenes and events by giving specific details that appeal to the five senses, or to the reader's imagination. Description presents background and setting. Its primary purpose is to help the reader realize, through as many sensuous details as possible, the way things (and people) are, in the episodes being described.

b. **Narration:** The author tells the story of a series of events, usually presented in chronological order. In a novel however, chronological order may be violated for the sake of the plot. The emphasis in narration, in both fiction and non-fiction, is on the events. Narration tells what has happened. Its primary purpose is to tell a story.

c. **Exposition:** The author uses explanation and analysis to present a subject or to clarify an idea. Exposition presents the facts about a subject or an issue as clearly and impartially as possible. Its primary purpose is to explain.

d. **Argument:** The author uses the techniques of persuasion to establish the truth of a statement or to convince the reader of its falsity. The purpose is to persuade the reader to believe something and perhaps to act on that belief. Argument takes sides on an issue. Its primary purpose is to convince.

5. Evaluate the book for interest, accuracy, objectivity, importance, thoroughness, and usefulness to its intended audience. Show whether the author's main arguments are true. Respond to the author's opinions. What do you agree or disagree with? And why? Illustrate whether or not any conclusions drawn are derived logically from the evidence. Explore issues the book raises. What possibilities does the book suggest? What has the author omitted or what

problems were left unsolved? What specific points are not convincing?

6. Connect this book to an APES theme we will be covering this year in class. (Themes: 1. Science is a process. 2. Energy conservations underlie all ecological processes. 3. The Earth itself is one interconnected system. 4. Humans alter natural systems. 5. Environmental problems have a cultural and social context. 6. Human survival depends on developing practices that will achieve systems.)



**AP Environmental Science
Ethics Pledge (DUE 1st DAY OF SCHOOL)**

By signing below, I, _____, hereby certify that:

1. I have completed the AP Environmental Science Summer 2016 assignment on my own and it is written in my own words.
2. I understand that I have the entire summer to complete the summer assignment and have noted the due dates. **Late work will not be accepted.**
3. I understand that if I have any questions over the summer or school year, I can e-mail Mrs. Helle at hellea@warrenhills.org.
4. I understand this course is equivalent to a college course and the notes, tests, pacing, labs, etc. will be treated as such.
5. I understand that the late policy for work during the school year will be 10% off for 1 day late and 20% off for 2 days late. After 2 days, no late work will be accepted. Work is due at the beginning of the period unless otherwise noted.
6. I understand the meaning of plagiarism and pledge to not plagiarize (in full or in part) on any assignment this school year. I understand that if I plagiarize an assignment I will receive a zero, administration will be contacted, and WCCC will be contacted regarding dual enrollment.
7. I understand that I am responsible for all missed work in the course when absent. If I am absent the day before an assigned test/quiz, I am still responsible for taking the quiz on time with the class. Assignments that are due when I am absent are to be e-mailed to Mrs. Helle or the late work policy will be in effect.

Student Signature

_____ Date _____

Parent Signature

_____ Date _____