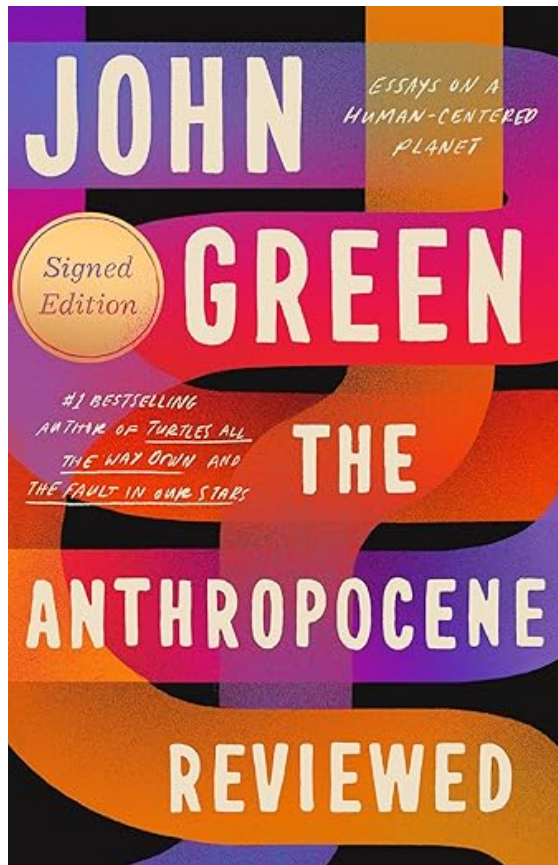


# AP Lang

## Summer Reading



**WHO:** All students taking AP Lang

**DUE:** First Full Week of Semester,  
August 15 for AP Lang Combined and  
January 9 for Spring Semester Students

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### ABOUT THE BOOK

Bestselling author John Green reviews different facets of the human-centered planet on a five-star scale—from the QWERTY keyboard and sunsets to Canada geese and Penguins of Madagascar.

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### ASSIGNMENT

After reading and taking notes on three to four of John Green's essays from the book, write your own review that could be featured in the book.

Choose anything you are interested in writing about and then take a mental stroll with it. As Green does, choose something that you can research and identify with on a personal level that will also make a larger statement about humanity and/or life today. For example, Green wrote about Diet Dr Pepper to comment on human innovation; He also wrote about the QWERTY keyboard to comment on collaboration.

Simulate Green's style. Use your notes to recall and reference the choices Green made to include the four areas on the rubric below: historical info/context, personal connection, a larger statement about humanity, and a thesis with a star review.

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### ANNOTATIONS & GRADING

Please see the next page for a breakdown of how points will be awarded for this assignment. Following this are notes for helping you annotate as you read.

## AP Language and Composition Summer Assignment

### Grading Breakdown

Your essay should include the following:

\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_ points Historical Info/Context (The essay gives the reader the background they need to understand your topic.) Cite your sources within the text. Example: According to the website “All You Need to Know about Pepsi”,...

\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_ points Personal Connection (The essay gives your reader an anecdote that reveals your personal association or experience with the topic.)

\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_ points Larger Statement About Humanity (Your topic inspires a statement or observation about humanity or life today that you explore in your essay. Be direct and specific with your observation. For example, “Tater tots are essential to the human experience, and humans should endeavor to keep them on the menu at Sonic because...”)

\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_ points Thesis and Star Review (The essay ends on a star review that corresponds and/or supports the ideas within the essay. This star review is essentially the essay’s thesis.)

\_\_\_\_/ \_\_\_\_ points Grammar and Mechanics (The essay contains minimal errors in punctuation, capitalization, and grammar, so as not to distract the reader from your ideas.)

### Annotation Help:

Use the following list to help direct your annotations as you read

1. Reader Response: Be able to trace your reactions, to ask questions in class, to remind yourself when you find answers to earlier questions. This should help note the writer’s effectiveness.

MAKE NOTE OF:

- Your reactions/emotional responses
- Your questions or lack of understanding or doubts (ask “Why?”)
- Your revelations: when “things” become clear to you, when you make links
- Similarities to other works: “Reminds me of...”
- Wonderful writing- passages that strike you artistically/aesthetically and why

2. Speaker: Think about how who the writer is and what he/she knows is communicated. This should help you decide the author’s credibility.

MAKE NOTE OF:

- Introductory facts: author backgrounds and relationship to the topic, bias, etc.
  - Ethos- how the author establishes credibility and character on the given topic
  - Note words and language that indicate the author's attitude/tone and where it shifts/changes and why
  - When the author directly or indirectly states how he/she feels
- Note key lines that stand out as crucial to the author's argument

3. Occasion: Think about what caused the author to write about this topic and whether or not it is a valid reason.

MAKE NOTE OF:

- The author's reasons for writing- what is the motivation?
- Historical, political, social issues surrounding the topic
- The author's personal reasons and well as the greater world/national reasons for the piece
- Descriptions of class judgments, racism, gender biases, stereotypes, etc.

4. Audience: Think about what kind of person or people the author intended as the audience and whether or not the author can connect with that audience effectively.

MAKE NOTE OF:

- Evidence of who (and it can be more than one) the author is trying to reach.
- Where the author directly or indirectly addresses a specific audience
- Pathos- where the author appeals to your sense of emotion through anecdotes and figurative Language

5. Purpose: Think about the author's purpose in writing this book and whether or not they are effective in that purpose.

MAKE NOTE OF:

- Specific reasons for writing: informing, persuading, arguing, refuting, exemplifying- but make sure you note specifics.
- Logos: the author's appeal to reason. Examine how he/she makes the reader believe in that purpose.

6. Subject: Think about what the book is discussing and whether or not the author shows why this subject is important.

MAKE NOTE OF:

- Elements related to the problem and issue
- How the author develops or deepens the aspects of the problem/issue
- How the author shows the complications related to the subject and the implication of it to you, the nation, the world, etc.

7. Authorial Devices and Structures in the Argument: Think about the author's techniques in delivery and how effective the author's methods are for rhetorical purposes - the use of subtleties, patterns, style, structure, etc.

MAKE NOTE OF:

- Changes in point of view/emphasis
- Crucial language/vocabulary- not just a word that you don't understand, but one that seems crucial to understanding the argument- look these up.
- Stylistic techniques: irony, satire, humor, exaggeration, repetition/patterns possible symbols, significant metaphors and other notable literary and rhetorical devices
- How the author's structure of the argument/book influences the reader and relate to the subject, audience, and purpose.