

Summer Assignment 2020

AP Human Geography

AP Human Geography is a study of human behavior and relationships, with a focus on spatial thinking. This means geographers need an understanding of location and the distribution of things in relationship to other things on the earth's surface. To prepare you for the course, and to help you succeed at spatial thinking, please do the following over the course of the summer:

1. It is important that you understand the political map of the world. Use the PowerPoint to help you memorize the political map (the names of most of the countries of the world and their locations) and the regions of the world. There will be a blank world map quiz the first week of school.
2. Read "Factfulness" by Hans Rosling (ISBN# 978-1-250-10781-7). You can purchase a copy or check one out of the library. As you read, prepare for a Socratic seminar to be held the second week of school. As you read, annotate your text or take notes on big ideas, making note of important quotes or evidence that will help you in the discussion focused around Rosling's hypothesis. If you have never participated in a Socratic seminar before, see the attached guide to help you understand the process.

"Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think"
by Hans Rosling

- I. Introduction
 - a. What is the author's hypothesis (what is he trying to prove by writing this book)?
- II. For each chapter, answer the following:
 - a. What is the "gap instinct", the "negativity instinct", etc?
 - b. What data does Rosling use to prove his point?
 - c. What evidence do you think is missing or would help make the case stronger?
 - d. What evidence are you aware of that contradicts his argument?
- III. Factfulness in Practice
 - a. In your opinion, did Rosling prove his hypothesis? How so or why not?

Guidelines for Socratic Seminar:

The Socratic method of teaching is based on Socrates' theory that it is more important to enable students to think for themselves than to merely fill their heads with "right" answers. Therefore, he regularly engaged his pupils in dialogues by responding to their questions with questions, instead of answers. This process encourages independent thinking and close analysis. This is the goal of our Socratic Seminars.

Basic Setup of the Socratic Seminar

- Before the Socratic Seminar, the instructor will provide students with an essential question that will provide the basis for a sound discussion. Students should prepare tangential open-ended questions that

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may lead to dialogue on the given subject. They need not prepare answers—a Socratic Seminar is never “scripted.”

- Read the text, interacting with it by highlighting or underlining important quotes and writing commentary in the margins.
- On the day of the seminar, all students will sit in a circle with the instructor on the outside.

Guidelines for Participants in a Socratic Seminar

1. Refer to the text when needed during the discussion. A seminar is not a test of memory. You are not "learning a subject"; your goal is to understand the ideas, issues, and values reflected in the text.
2. Do not stay confused; ask for clarification.
3. Stick to the point currently under discussion; make notes about ideas you want to come back to.
4. Don't raise hands; take turns speaking.
5. Listen carefully to each other and be incredibly respectful. It is okay if you read and interpret the text differently.
6. Speak up so that all can hear you
7. Talk to each other, not just to the leader or teacher.
8. Discuss ideas rather than each other's opinions.

Expectations of Participants in a Socratic Seminar

When I evaluate your Socratic Seminar participation, I will ask myself the following questions.

Did the student...

Speak loudly and clearly?

Cite reasons and evidence for their statements?

Use the text to find support?

Listen to others respectfully?

Stick with the subject?

Talk to each other, not just to the leader?

Paraphrase accurately?

Ask for help to clear up confusion?

Support each other?

Avoid hostile exchanges?

Question others in a civil manner?

Seem prepared?

Should you have any questions over the summer, please email me at

Jennifer_Crawford@dekalbschoolsga.org. I look forward to an engaging and productive year.

Mrs. Jennifer Crawford
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