



## **Should I Take AP Human Geography?**

Good question, here are a few facts to help you decide:

**If you've ever wondered why you almost always see a McDonald's near a Burger King, or a Lowe's within a half-mile of Home Depot, you've already done Human Geography.**

**AP Human Geography is a college-level class, which can sound intimidating. However, this course is more accessible than many AP courses available, and is a great way to ease into the AP experience. This class features frequent small homework assignments (far smaller than other AP courses), and frequent writing in class in preparation for the AP exam (which is 50% writing-based). We also offer optional preparation classes on the weekends leading up to the AP test in order to better prepare your student.**

**The idea of an AP class can be alarming for freshmen, but I highly recommend it. This is definitely the class to choose if your student wants to include other AP courses down the road in his/her high school career. This course will introduce them to AP-level timed multiple choice, writing, and study habits. However, it is all done in an introductory way that is not overwhelming if your student commits to the process.**

**Here are some qualities of students who tend to succeed in this class:**

- They always want to know "why" things happen or function the way they do.**
- They read for fun.**
- They make connections between things that at first appear unrelated.**
- They are interested in history (even though this is NOT a history class.)**
- They can use their time wisely.**
- They easily grasp the concept of cause and effect.**

**I have taught AP Human Geography, AP World History (the sophomore course) and AP US History (the junior course), and there is a marked difference in preparation between the students who took AP Human Geography as a freshman and those who did not.**

Thank you for your time and interest in this subject. If you have any further questions, please email me and I will be happy to respond, or to set up a conference with you if you have more specific concerns for your student.

Andrew Fletcher  
AP Human Geography  
Saginaw High School  
[afletcher@ems-isd.net](mailto:afletcher@ems-isd.net)

## What Does It Take to Make a 3, 4 or 5 on the AP exam?

(A "Passing" Score on the AP Tests)

From: Mr. Fletcher:

To: Students (mostly freshmen) planning on signing up for the AP Human Geography exam

- We want you to be successful and attain college credits.
- We will do our best to get you fully prepared to be successful.
- We believe that those students who try, and prepare correctly, will gain credits.

From our years of experience, we have seen the following patterns for students who do the best on the AP test in Human Geography:

- You must be willing to read the texts, ask questions about key topics, and be involved in class.
- You must be able to score 80's and 90's on most of the unit exams in class, or understand that lower scores are usually due to a lack of full preparation.
- You must study extra during the time right before the tests. This means several nights of review, not just a quick check of notes on the way to the exams.
- You should come to Spring review sessions as much as possible. This is especially true freshmen who have never taken an AP exam before.

We have seen the following patterns for students who do not do well on the exams:

- Minimal class effort is given during the semester.
- Low scores are consistently earned on unit tests.
- Little or no time is given to review prior to AP testing dates.
- No time is given to attend review sessions.
- No time is given studying extra using items like published study guides (Kaplan's, Princeton Review, etc.).

We want you to do well in class. We want you to be proud of your work earning AP credits, whether for grade points or college prep. We will enjoy working with you.

We also want to encourage you to do your best and spend your family's AP money wisely.

