

REHUGOS Assignment: “Reading” the World

This is not a traditional “summer reading” assignment. REHUGOS assignments give students the opportunity to connect to the world socially, culturally, and historically. By strengthening your awareness of the world beyond your immediate lens, you will think and write critically about important issues. Traditional REHUGOS assignments for AP English involve more than we are asking you to do, so please do not Google examples (or plagiarize someone else’s...which would result in a zero on your first assignment and an office referral)--just follow the directions listed below.

The assignment does not change from 9-11th grade, but you as a learner do grow and view your world differently over time. Please submit a current, recently completed version of this assignment each year to your English teacher. Do not submit one that you or someone you know completed prior to this June.

Here is the [rubric](#) (bookmark-see below), and here is an [exemplar](#) (bookmark-see below), of the assignment as well.

R - Reading

- Fiction texts, nonfiction texts; book lectures
- Choose either a full novel or a collection of nonfiction works (not just one small article)

E - Entertainment*

- Independent films, documentaries, trips to art museums, concerts, plays, musicals, pride/cultural festivals

H - History*

- Trips to historical sites, museums, monuments, Renaissance fairs, etc.

U - Universal concepts/truths

- Your analysis of and response to a statement or quotation that you believe to be true

G - Government & current events

- Summary/response paragraphs about news stories, reactions to political debates, visits to government offices

O - Observations & personal experiences

- Intriguing observations of human behavior at community events or commentary on your summer volunteer work in the community

S - Sports

- Sporting event, competition, game, or athletic experience

Though many of these places/events can be costly, **you do not have to spend any money for this assignment or go to public spaces! For example, you can take a virtual field trip, watch a concert online, and choose options that do not require money and can be done at home.*

Directions

1. You will **choose three** different REHUGOS topics.
2. **Make a copy** of this [Google Doc Template](#) and create your product. Make sure to use your school Google account to make this product. You will upload your product to your English Google Classroom on the first day of class.
3. Write a short 2 sentence summary/explanation for each aspect.
4. Write a one-paragraph response/reflection/analysis that illustrates...
 - a. your learning

- b. your emotional/intellectual response to the topic, event, or experience
- c. the personal/universal significance of your topic, event, or experience

EXEMPLAR

	Reading
Two-sentence Summary:	Over the summer I read <i>Never Let Me Go</i> by Kazuo Ishiguro. This book is about Kathy recounting her days at her exclusive boarding school, Hailsham, and her life following. It is evident in the beginning that something is special about Kathy and her friends, and throughout the book, you learn what it is.
One-paragraph response/reflection/analysis that illustrates... 1. your learning 2. your emotional/intellectual response to the topic, event, or experience 3. the personal/universal significance of your topic, event, or experience	This book is so heartbreaking to read because the characters in it feel so real. The author includes little details and small anecdotes about the characters that make them come to life and feel like people you know. The book made me question the nature of humanity and what it really means to be alive. It also made me question the ethics of creating life as a means to cure otherwise fatal illnesses. Interestingly, the novel, despite seeming like science fiction from its summary, really is a coming of age story. It is a story about Kath and her friends growing up and accepting their purpose in life. Even as their perils evolve from normal teenage problems like dating to not so normal problems like searching for the person you were cloned from, you can still relate with the characters because, even though their problems are strange, they represent a greater struggle of the human condition.

	Entertainment
Two-sentence Summary:	I watched a documentary called <i>What the Health</i> , a film that reveals the secret to preventing or reversing diseases. Kip Andersen, the filmmaker, investigates how credible the information that the world's leading health organizations are sharing truly is. Andersen confronts these organizations and speaks with many corporate leaders. Since the film, these leading health organizations have shared more credible information such as sharing what foods are truly best to avoid illness. The documentary reveals that sometimes, diet determines our health.
One-paragraph response/reflection/analysis that illustrates... 1. your learning 2. your emotional/intellectual response to the topic, event, or experience 3. the personal/universal significance of your topic, event, or experience	Over the years, I have heard a lot of information about this exceptional documentary and finally got around to watching it this summer. The documentary taught me the true importance of our diet and lifestyle and how we really are what we eat. I read a book called <i>When Breath Becomes Air</i> , and in conjunction with this documentary, it helped me realize that you can look at life and death a million different ways, but at the end of the day, our experiences and the way we eat and live our lives affect our quality of life while we are here.

	History
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Two-sentence Summary:	This summer, I visited the Breakers, a historic mansion in Newport, RI, originally owned by the Vanderbilts. Named for the waves that crash (or “break”) on the cliffs below, Cornelius Vanderbilt II’s summer home is filled with immaculate gilded furniture and marble structuring. Throughout the tour, I got the opportunity to learn the storied history of the mansion, as well as see the rooms in which the family would stay and where the help would work.
One-paragraph response/reflection/analysis that illustrates... 1. your learning 2. your emotional/intellectual response to the topic, event, or experience 3. the personal/universal significance of your topic, event, or experience	Through this mansion and tour, I got to learn more about the Vanderbilt family and the history of Newport. I found the mansion itself to be awe-inspiring and I enjoyed the tour because you feel as if you are alongside the family in the early 1900s. It was especially interesting for me to visit the Breakers, as I had recently finished <i>Dispatches From The Edge</i> , a memoir written by Anderson Cooper, the great-grandson of Cornelius Vanderbilt II. I learned that Cooper spent his summers at the mansion. I admire Cooper’s work, so it was amazing to see not only a part of history, but a big part of his life and childhood.

	Universal Concept/Truth
Two-sentence Summary:	“If the Party could thrust its hand into the past and say of this or that event, it <i>never happened</i> - that, surely, was more terrifying than mere torture and death.” I read this quote in <i>1984</i> by George Orwell and it immediately reminded me of issues happening today.
One-paragraph response/reflection/analysis that illustrates... 1. your learning 2. your emotional/intellectual response to the topic, event, or experience 3. the personal/universal significance of your topic, event, or experience	I believe this quote to be true because of the current issues in the United States with neo-Naziam and many people denying parts of history. In Illinois, there is a Nazi on the ballot for Congress who vehemently denies the Holocaust ever happened and billionaire Mark Zuckerberg recently faced backlash for allowing the denial on Facebook, saying it wasn’t his place to ban certain viewpoints. In <i>1984</i> , it terrifies Winston that people in power could say an event never happened and make people believe them, and it terrifies me, too. A study conducted in February 2018 by Claims Conference reveals that 31% of Americans don’t believe the Holocaust was as bad as it people say it was. The study also shows that 22% of Millenials have never heard of the Holocaust. How can we learn from the past if there are people who are trying to pretend it didn’t happen?

	Government & Current Events
Two-sentence Summary:	On July 16, at a town meeting in Haddam, Connecticut, local official Melissa Schlag kneeled for the Pledge of Allegiance and this action has been met with backlash from the community. Since she first knelt, people from across the country have been calling for her to resign. The gesture first started as a protest to President Trump, more specifically, his summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Schlag told CNN that she doesn’t see anything changing, so she doesn’t see herself standing anytime soon.
One-paragraph response/reflection/analysis that illustrates... 1. your learning	I was drawn to this event because kneeling for the national anthem has caused a lot of controversy ever since Colin Kaepernick started kneeling in August 2016. Another thing that interested me was how seriously people are reacting... My mom works with Melissa Schlag and mentioned that their office had to get

<p>2. your emotional/intellectual response to the topic, event, or experience</p> <p>3. the personal/universal significance of your topic, event, or experience</p>	<p>heightened security and Schlag is receiving hate mail and death threats. These small actions by Kaepernick and Schlag have had monumental consequences and in my opinion, it shows a divide in our country. Schlag chose to kneel for the Pledge because “the Pledge ends with ‘...for liberty and justice for all’ and I feel that doesn’t mean anything,” she said. I wholeheartedly agree with her statement because it seems that we live in a world full of hatred and bigotry. Every day, people die for being themselves and that doesn’t seem like liberty or justice to me.</p>
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	<p>Observations & Personal Experience</p>
<p>Two-sentence Summary:</p>	<p>Summer’s last weekend, my family had the chance to take one last trip to Boston and go whale watching for the first time. One of my favorite things to do is take pictures to document moments and unfortunately by the time whale watching came about my phone battery had died. However, that offered an opportunity to spend quality time with my family.</p>
<p>One-paragraph response/reflection/analysis that illustrates...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. your learning 2. your emotional/intellectual response to the topic, event, or experience 3. the personal/universal significance of your topic, event, or experience 	<p>One of my favorite things to do is to take pictures of events and times in order to document the memories that have happened, even if the majority of these pictures do not tend to resurface. I like to follow the idea that I regret the pictures I did not take. However, the lack of power capacity limited my interactions with photography and social media while on this trip. However, what came out of this trip was spending quality time with my family. Lately, the college process has had me reflecting on my life more and more this summer whether it be present day or my childhood. I was able to see people as we commenced on our journey to sea on their phones, sleeping, chatting amongst their friends, etc. One image that caught my attention was a lady trying to sleep while her friends all chit chatted very loudly, showing images on their phones and seemingly annoying her. If they took the moment to realize that she was trying to sleep, maybe she could have gotten some sleep. Then, people on the decks of the ship quickly became cold and quickly went into the cabin and took people’s seats as they were watching the whales (one being my seat). However, my sister and I enjoyed the scenery of the dark night skies on the top deck and just talked about the past and our thoughts for the future... one sentence actually being “I’m going to miss you when you go to college.” The moments I was unable to attempt to snap pictures and videos of these whales, I instead was able to, as they say, “enjoy the moment” for what it was. Although I see pictures as the memories to look back on, these memories that we make and don’t take (pictures of) we can take the extra second to enjoy the time that we have.</p>

	<p>S</p>
<p>Two-sentence Summary:</p>	<p>This past summer, I played on a travel softball team that I have been part of for the past four years. We played in multiple tournaments throughout the summer; this year, we traveled to Lake George and Rhode Island.</p>
<p>One-paragraph response/reflection/analysis that illustrates...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. your learning 2. your emotional/intellectual response to the topic, event, or experience 3. the personal/universal significance of your topic, event, or experience 	<p>This was my last year playing travel softball, so it was a bit sentimental for me. I have been playing travel softball since the summer before my freshman year, so it is strange to imagine a summer without it. This team in particular I have played with over the past three years, and in that time, we have become a family. I am definitely going to miss spending my summer weekends with these girls, but I am comforted by the fact that I know I have made such life-long friends. Playing travel softball has taught me many lessons I utilize every day. It has taught me resilience and perseverance. Playing three or more games in a day in the hot summer sun can be more than tiring, and sometimes you want to just give up--but I had to learn how to overcome that voice in my head telling me to just give up because it</p>

was too hard. I learned that at the end of the day, it is not always about who has the most skill; it is about who has the most strength to keep going.

Grading Rubric

100-95	85	75	65-50
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responses are extremely thorough• Responses demonstrate <i>significant</i> thought and effort• Excellent use of examples and details to explore and develop analysis• Thorough and well written with varied sentence structure and vocabulary (or well crafted music/art)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responses are <i>mostly</i> thorough• Responses demonstrate <i>fairly significant</i> thought and effort• Adequate reliance upon examples and details to illustrate and develop analysis• Responses are thoughtful and fairly well written with varied sentence structure and grade-level vocab	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responses are <i>somewhat</i> thorough• Responses demonstrate <i>some</i> thought and effort• Incomplete development of ideas; details and examples not always evident• Responses adequately address some aspects of the assigned topic• Sentence structure and/or vocabulary may be basic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responses lack ideas/detail• Responses demonstrate <i>little</i> thought and effort• Ideas not clearly stated• Responses consist of unsupported opinions only marginally related to the topic• Writing is weakly composed