AP Human Geography
Summer Assignment

Article Analysis

DUE Tuesday, August 20th

Assignment Includes:

1. **READ** the provided articles ("The Role of Place in the World" & "Why Leaders Should Learn Geography")
   - Each article analysis will be its own daily grade

2. **COMPLETE** the **SPEEDO** analysis worksheet for each
   - **S**ocial – think cultural, language, ethnicity, religion, generational, societal norms
   - **P**olitical – think governments, policies, parties, legislations, organizations, alliances
   - **E**nvironmental – think anything physical earth, landforms, bodies of water, conservation, resources
   - **E**conomic – think anything financial, currencies, monetary, business, trade
   - **D**emographic – think population statistics like birth rate, ages, genders, population characteristics
   - **O**verall – what was the big picture point for the article, author’s intention

3. **WRITE** a response to the Free Response Question (FRQ) – we will do a LOT of these during the year
   - While reading, **make notations** in the article before answering the FRQ
   - Respond to the FRQ prompt as thoroughly as possible – you will be *Explaining* your answer
   - Include in your response **at least one quote** from the article that best supports your answer
   - Write in complete sentences and use vocabulary if possible
   - You do **not** need an opening statement or thesis
   - You do **not** need a closing statement or conclusion
   - You do **not** need a thesaurus to beef up your response
The Role of Place in the World:

Despite globalization, geography and place exert formidable power.

By Harm de Blij
October 26, 2008

In recent years, the notion that the world, if not flat, is rapidly flattening as a result of the forces of globalization has gained currency to the point of becoming a platitude. So mobile, so interconnected, so integrated is this new world that historic barriers are no more, interaction is global, ever-freer trade rules the globe, the flow of ideas (and money and jobs) accelerates by the day, and choice, not constraint, is the canon of the converted. Join the "forces of flattening" and you will reap the benefits, say Thomas Friedman and others who advance this point of view. Don't, and you will fall off the edge. The option is yours.

But is it? In truth, though the world has changed dramatically in the last 50 years, we are still parachuted into places so different that the common ground of globalization has just the thinnest of topsoil. One of some 7,000 languages will become our "mother tongue"; only a small minority of us will have the good fortune of being raised in a version of English, the primary language of globalization. One of tens of thousands of religious denominations is likely to transmit the indoctrination most of us will carry for life. A combination of genetic and environmental conditions defines health prospects that still vary widely around the planet.

Some of us will be born in places of long-term peace and stability, while others will face endemic conflict in our homelands. Hundreds of millions never in their lives escape the threat of mayhem. The horizons of a life that starts in a village of a low-income tropical country differ vastly from those of an infant in a modern city of a rich country. And in every locale on this planet, even in the most favored, the combined powers of place mean something very different for women than they do for men. The rising tide of globalization may lift all boats, but most of the crews are male.

If it is obvious that the world is not flat, the question is: For whom does it appear flat? Countless world-flattening globalizers move every day from hotel lobbies to airport limos to first-class lounges to business-class seats on intercontinental airliners, laptops in hand, uploading, outsourcing, offshoring as they travel, adjusting the air conditioning as they go. They are changing the world, these modern nomads, and they are, in many ways, improving it -- depending on one's definition of progress.

But are these "globals" invariably agents of access and integration? Are they lowering the barriers to worldwide participation or raising the stakes against it? Have their influence and effect overpowered the imperatives of place, so that their very mobility symbolizes a growing irrelevance of location -- and geography, in the view of more than one observer, is history?

Not yet. Even as the powers of economic globalization homogenize urban skylines from Berlin to Bangkok, another force is transforming the world, dividing it into a core of haves and a periphery of have-less or have-nots. It is not difficult to visualize this global core, even without a map: It is anchored by North America and flanked by Europe across the Atlantic to the east and Japan and Australia across the Pacific to the west. It contains the vast majority of the urban nodes of globalization, including the three dominant "world cities" of London, New York and Tokyo; its economic power is defined by data such as this: With about 15% of the world's population, the core earns some 75% of all annual income. Population growth in the global core is far below the world average; the national populations of many countries of the periphery
continue to burgeon. Over the remainder of this century, the world may add more than 3 billion to its present numbers (of about 7 billion); 90% of this natural growth will occur in the periphery.

Small wonder that the global core is the coveted destination for millions who seek ways, legally or otherwise, to leave their abodes in the hope of finding a better future. But the core itself is taking on the worldwide manifestation of one of globalization's uglier local manifestations: the gated community. From the "security fence" between Mexico and the United States to Israel's 490 miles of walls, and from maritime patrols off northern Australia and southern Spain, and for reasons ranging from economics to safety, the global core is ringed by barricades.

Coupled with the difficulties that would-be migrants encounter when they do try to secure visas or work permits to enter globalization's fortress, these constraints are remarkably effective. United Nations data indicate that, worldwide, only 3% of all citizens live in a jurisdiction other than that of their birth. The overwhelming majority of the passengers of Cruise Ship Earth still die in, or very close to, the cabin in which they were born.

This means that geography and place still exert formidable power over the huge majority of the world's people, whose mobility remains constrained, their cultural baggage commonly unadaptable, their resources limited, their health imperiled, their hopes dimmed. More than a billion of these people are the poorest of the world's poor, the sickest of the sick. Another billion live on the edge of penury. At a time of reviving ideological (this time religious) extremism and dissemination of weapons of mass destruction, this is a ticket to catastrophe. Proclamations of a flat or flattening world may cheer the literati in the core, but not many beyond the barricades.

Harm de Blij, a professor of geography at Michigan State University, is the author, most recently, of "The Power of Place: Geography, Destiny, and Globalization's Rough Landscape."


SPEEDO Reminders:

- Social – think cultural, language, ethnicity, religion, generational, societal norms
- Political – think governments, policies, parties, legislations, organizations, alliances
- Environmental – think anything physical earth, landforms, bodies of water, conservation, resources
- Economic – think anything financial, currencies, monetary, business, trade
- Demographic – think population statistics like birth rate, ages, genders, population characteristics
- Overall – what was the big picture point for the article, author’s intention
**Name:** _________________________________

**Article Title:** “The Role of Place in the World” by Harm de Blij

**Directions:** After reading the provided article, answer the following questions thoroughly.

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**Why does this matter to the World?**

**Why does this matter to the U.S.?**

**Why does this matter to me?**

**FAMOUS or NOTEWORTHY QUOTE (cite – who said this?)**

**Explain what it MEANS:**

**Explain why it MATTERS:**

**2 Connections to the Primer Packet:**

1. 
2. 

**2 Critical Questions you would ask:**

1. 
2. 
Directions: After reading the provided article, respond to the following prompt. You must include at least one quote from the article that best supports your response. You must use complete sentences when writing your answer.

- “The Role of Place in the World” by Harm de Blij
  - Explain why the sense of “place” is important in the global community.
WHY LEADERS SHOULD LEARN GEOGRAPHY

Anne Laure

http://geo-pickmeup.com/why-leaders-should-learn-geography/

Kirk Goldsberry mentioned in “The Importance of Spatial Thinking” that “Harvard eradicated its Geography Department in the 1940’s, and many universities followed suit”. Indeed, not only has geography never been part of business programs, it gradually vanished from education fields that matter in prestigious schools, with no major revival since the 1940’s. Today, it is still suffering from an inaccurate split between a “physical” and a “human” branch, themselves sub-divided into multiple precarious sub-fields that makes everybody, including geographers themselves, feel embarrassed and confused about their own discipline. Having so much trouble defining what geography is played a big role in its disappearance from the stage of essential disciplines for leaders and business people.

That lack of interest for geography as a field of study has also to do with the fact that it is still perceived as the “art” of exploring and mapping the world with a telescope from an old sailboat, counting rocks and drawing exotic landscapes with a nib while sipping some exotic cocktails. Not only is geography (still) seen as some sort of poetic leisure by the business world, it is now reduced to location devices and mapping gadgets since technology progress put GPS and Google Earth on every smartphone.

Well, we got it wrong. Geography is not the science that tries to naively explain the world by describing its very surface anymore, and it has nothing to do with naming all the capital cities of Central America, nor with the ability to use the location feature on Pinterest.

Today’s geography is an angle to look at the world, embrace its complexity, a way to get a sense of human flows, behavior trends, cultural influences, market evolutions, balance of power between institutions, companies, governments, from a global to a very local perspective. It is a way of thinking that crosses time and space at any possible scale to observe and understand what is happening. It connects the dimensions of the world – societies, environment, economy, politics, finance, psychology... – by offering unique key concepts and theoretical tools.

As big data is becoming one of the biggest economic challenge of our time, having the ability to connect several layers of thematic information, to cross it with multiple time & space scales, to process complexity in order to end up with several prioritized solutions are not an optional skills for leaders for leaders today. Decision makers need to know about wide general processes such as globalization, cultural preferences, religious beliefs in the world, demographic trends, but also about regional consumption habits, local specificities, small groups social psychology and behavior.

Having a good knowledge of regional culture and place-related specifics is also definitely an asset, with employees as well as partners and customers. Being aware of the importance of place and people uniqueness, admitting other ways of thinking and other people-territory relationships will definitely make a difference in the way one will inspire others, no matter what the product is.
Geography provides an essential basic knowledge of global mechanisms that matter in the world that people making decisions on a daily basis should know about, from how nationalism shapes consumer habits to why beach vacation became the biggest sector of the tourism industry since being tanned became a sign of wealth sixty years ago.

Like other sciences, geography provides analytical skills, precision, the ability to collect and process important amounts of quantitative and qualitative data, to synthetize and communicate results, both verbally and visually. More than other sciences, geography also provides spatial data, visualization skills (mapping and sketching), emphasizes the capacity to read and communicate multiple dimensions of a problem to a wide range of partners, develops design and creativity skills, as well as decision making and good understanding of group and individual psychologies.

On top of that, leaders can gain a unique expertise from geography by developing the three following skills:

- **The sense of scale**: having good abilities to assess distances (physical distances, but also symbolic ones between cultures, peoples, products, times), to estimate accurately market size and accessibility, the feasibility of one project, its scalability, the capacity to discern what falls under global trends (long term) versus what is a specific localized (short term) phenomena make a great difference in the success of one enterprise.

- **Spatial thinking**: not to be confused with “making all big decisions looking at a map instead of charts”. Spatial thinking simply means: not to forget that data are always coming from somewhere, which basically means they have to be considered in a cultural, political and economic place-related context, relatively to other surrounding contexts (what happened in the past, what happened elsewhere, what happened in other dimensions than the financial or industrial one).

- **The sense of place**: You always sell more than a product. You sell a story, a dream, a hope, a discourse. What makes the difference between a fair success and an exceptional product people will wait for is the deep and unwavering belief that they need this product to be the person they want to be. You sell meaning, you sell identity and image. Well, places (from the country to the house) are not just interchangeable empty containers for people. They are deeply associated with affective memories, life stories, key moments of people’s lives. Just like things.

  If “power is information”, knowing what is where in the world, and why, how it used to be and how it is likely to be in the future is essential for anyone aspiring to open a path for the others to get inspired and follow it. Oh, and also, learning geography will help you to not look like a fool by confusing Iraq with Afghanistan or not knowing what the capital city of Canada is.

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**Article Title:** “Why Leaders Should Learn Geography” by Anne Laure

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**2 Critical Questions you would ask:**

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4. 

3. 
4.
“Why Leaders Should Learn Geography” by Anne Laure

- Explain why knowledge in geography is crucial for global leaders.