



**Miami Coral Park Senior High School
Summer Reading 2026-2027
AP English Language and Composition**

Book Overview: *The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays on a Human-Centered Planet* is a collection of personal essays by John Green that reviews various facets of the human experience during the Anthropocene, the current geological age defined by significant human impact on Earth. Using a five-star rating system, Green explores a wide range of topics, from the QWERTY keyboard and sunsets to the Penguins of Madagascar, reflecting on the contradictions of humanity—our immense power and our limitations—often drawing from his own life and experiences, including his battle with labyrinthitis and the COVID-19 pandemic. The book, adapted from his podcast, is praised for its blend of humor, insight, and emotional depth, celebrating both the sublime and the ridiculous aspects of being human.

Assignment: "Reviewing the Reviewer"

Please type your work. It will be due the first week of school. Be ready to discuss.

Preparing for the Rhetorical Analysis Essay

Since AP Lang focuses heavily on analyzing how writers craft arguments and communicate ideas, this summer assignment will help you practice the exact skills needed for the rhetorical analysis essay.

In *The Anthropocene Reviewed*, John Green blends personal narrative, humor, cultural commentary, and argument in unique essays where he "reviews" different aspects of human life on a five-star scale. Your job is to analyze how he writes—not just what he says.

Part I: Active Reading Journal (Required)

As you read, choose **8 chapters/essays** from the book to annotate and respond to.

For **each** selected chapter, complete the following tasks:

Chapter Title: _____

1. The Central Claim

What is John Green really saying about humanity, life, or the world in this chapter?

Write 2–3 sentences explaining the deeper message.

2. Rhetorical Choices

Identify and explain at least **3 rhetorical strategies** used in the chapter.

Examples (but not limited to):

- Anecdote
- Imagery
- Humor
- Repetition
- Juxtaposition
- Extended metaphor
- Allusion
- Syntax
- Diction

- Tone shifts
- Contrast
- Emotional appeal (pathos)
- Credibility (ethos)
- Logic (logos)

For each strategy complete the following:

--Strategy:

--Example from the text:

--Why Green uses it:

--Effect on the reader:

3. Tone Analysis

What tone does Green create?

Examples:

reflective, nostalgic, humorous, bittersweet, ironic, hopeful, critical, conversational

How does his tone help strengthen his message? (3–4 sentences)

4. The “Star Rating”

What star rating does he give?

Do you agree with it? Why or why not?

(3–4 sentences)

Part II: Creative Extension (Required)

Your Own Anthropocene Review

Write your own mini review of something from modern life.

Examples:

- Group chats
- AirPods
- Traffic lights
- Coffee shops
- Sunday mornings
- Target runs
- School parking lots
- Spotify playlists
- Rainstorms
- Graduation

Requirements:

- 1–2 pages
- Blend personal reflection + commentary
- Include at least 2 rhetorical strategies intentionally
- End with a star rating out of 5

Title your piece:

“The Anthropocene Reviewed: _____”