

## APES Summer Assignment

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Welcome to APES!

I am very excited that you will be joining us for the 2010-2011 school year. I will occasionally be checking email throughout the summer – if you have ANY questions, please do not hesitate to email me at [revensen@roxbury.org](mailto:revensen@roxbury.org).

I also have a website set up – which you will find many useful links. Please visit the webpage – [www.webs.msevensen.com](http://www.webs.msevensen.com)

For the first day of class, please have a 3-ring binder to organize your notes and handouts. Below you will find some information and assignments that I will expect before the start of the school year.

### Setting up an Email Account

Since one of the objectives of environmental science is to reduce our impact on the environment, I will be requiring some assignments/lab reports to be typed/mailed to me. If you do not have an email account, you will need to set one up. There are many free hosts out there – Yahoo, Gmail, AOL. Please keep the address appropriate for school. I will use the email to communicate with you throughout the year.

### Setting Up an Electronic Journal (aka blog)

One of the goals of this course is to help you become familiar with environmental topics as they are reported in the news. As voters, you will need to be able to make intelligent decisions about public issues. For this project, you will still create a “scrapbook” but it will be a GREEN scrapbook – using technology!!!

You will create a blog of your articles and your ideas/analysis of the articles. This will be an ongoing assignment, just as your original scrapbook, with 2-3 articles posted per month. I will be checking your work and commenting back on your analyses.

*Summer Assignment – Setting up a blog and 4 postings for the summer!*

#### *Setting up the Blog*

- Set up a blog at the google site Blogger.com - <https://www.blogger.com/start>
- If you have a gmail account, this should work as your log in/password – try it.
- If you need to set up an account – my suggestion is to pick something “school appropriate” (like your first name initial and last name – mine is revensen...). You may want to share this blog sometime in the future, so keep your id/name simple/easy to remember. You can visit my blog at <http://revensen.blogspot.com/>
- Once you create a your blog and able to log in – name it...you can name it “APES Journal” or something similar.
- Pick your template/set up – colors, fonts, you can put a photo in there (you can always modify/edit this later). Remember that this is on the internet – do not post any photos or information that you do not want people to see (there are *some* privacy settings)
- PLEASE EMAIL ME YOUR BLOG LINK (use your email address that you will be using throughout the year)!!!! [revensen@roxbury.org](mailto:revensen@roxbury.org) – I will send you an email confirming your blog/I have it. Always cc your emails. You do not need to share it with anyone – that is up to you. I will not share your site with anyone.

### *Blog Entries*

You will start the **summer with 4 entries** (due by the first day of class) – then you must collect 2 articles per month. Each selected article must be about or related to some aspect of environmental science – global warming, mining, land use, environmental issues, ecology, etc. Many environmental topics are important politically, and articles involving a party's or a politician's stand on a specific environmental issue would certainly be acceptable for this scrapbook. Articles must be at *least* 2 paragraphs long, and selected from reputable news sources like the *New York Times*, *The Trenton Times*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, etc. Xerox copies are acceptable, downloads from the Internet are also, as long as they come from a reputable, print, medium.

- To create a journal entry, select “new post”.
- The title should be YOUR title of the journal article
- In the body of the blog, summarize your article in 1-2 paragraphs. Then, in 1-2 paragraphs, analyze the article/reflect upon the article...some ideas to consider - why did you chose this? How is it impacting you/your family? What can/should be done? What are the consequences?
- Cite your work!!! At the bottom of your entry, you should cite where you got your article from...if you are not sure how to cite your entry, check out this APA formatting site <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

### *The Grade*

You will receive grades each month on the articles you have collected over the course of that month. Your final grade on the project will be based on your essay and your table of contents.