

## AP Biology Summer Assignment 2017-2018

For the first time ever, the AP Biology Summer Assignment is OPTIONAL! You do not have to do it, but if you do, you can earn up to 20 points extra credit. This is enough to raise a test grade by one letter (from a "B" to an "A"). This is significant because we only have six tests all year, and these tests make up the majority of your grade in the class.

Anyway, I think you'll find the book interesting and provides a great introduction to the course, so I hope you can find the time to read the book and do the book report.

Here's the assignment:

Read [A Short History of Nearly Everything](#) by Bill Bryson. This is a long book, but not difficult to read, and I think you will actually enjoy it. You can find this book at many Los Angeles County or City of Long Beach libraries. You DO NOT need to purchase this book, and as long as you plan ahead of time you should have no problem checking one out from a library. If you would like to purchase the book it's available on Amazon or eBay for about \$6. You might even be able to borrow it from someone who has taken AP Biology in the past. Don't wait until the last minute to find this book! There is a special illustrated edition, which I have read, and I recommend trying to find this edition.

I would like you to answer the following questions in clear answers that prove to me that you've read the book. I have read the book and will be reading Amazon book reviews, Wikipedia sites, and other online commentary on the book, so please don't bother to make things up. I have no time to spare on students that hope to deceive me. I will penalize points to students that have not read the book, yet force me to waste time reading their work. You don't want to start off with negative points in this class.

- a. Write a brief summary of the book (including stuff you won't find on the back cover)
- b. Aside from the ending, relate a memorable section or story from the second half of the book.
- c. What was the message/moral of the book? How did Bryson weave that message through the book?
- d. How did the book end?
- e. Write a review of the book. Did you like it? Does it relate to the course? How long did it take to read?

This summer assignment will take a significant amount of time if completed properly. Start early, plan ahead, and break up the work into manageable pieces. Don't procrastinate!

**Your written assignment: the [A Short History of Nearly Everything](#) book report is due on or before Friday, August 25th. Submit your assignment as a Google Doc through Google Classroom. Many students have probably not used Google Classroom, but it is pretty simple and you should be able to figure out how it works. If you're new to Google Drive/Docs/Classroom ask a friend for help, or look online for help. Remember you can always contact me at [jellis@s.busd.k12.ca.us](mailto:jellis@s.busd.k12.ca.us) if you have any questions.**