



**GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM  
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10**

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**DATE OF MEETING:** May 25, 2021

**TITLE:** Approval to Display The Cultural Landscape for AP (Advanced Placement)  
Textbook Adoption Materials for 60 Days

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**BACKGROUND:**

Three high school teachers and a high school administrator have determined that a new textbook for AP Human Geography would benefit the curriculum and our student's preparation for the AP Exam and subsequent advanced social studies courses. After having completed the evaluation process, we are requesting a public review of a new textbook for the District's AP Human Geography course. Our evaluation committee consisted of an AP Human Geography teacher, an AP World History teacher, a Special Education Resource History teacher, and the principal from Ironwood Ridge High School – the only high school in our district that offers the AP Human Geography course.

The first step of the process was to determine which texts have been recommended by the College Board for AP Human Geography. Second, the committee outlined the minimum requirements for a textbook to be used in the AP Human Geography course. Once the recommended books were determined and the minimum requirements were agreed upon, three textbooks were reviewed by the committee. The following textbooks were evaluated on March 31, 2021:

**AP Human Geography**

1. *Human Geography: A Spatial Perspective* (Publisher: Cengage)
2. *Human Geography: Landscapes of Human Activity* (Publisher: McGraw-Hill)
3. *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography* (Publisher: Pearson/Savvas)

Evaluation rubrics were scored individually for the three textbooks. The results were compiled, summarized, and agreed upon by all members of the evaluation team.

AP Human Geography Textbook Adoption Committee Results									
Textbooks Reviewed	Rating by Evaluators								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Total
<i>Human Geography: A Spatial Perspective</i> (Publisher: Cengage)	30	45	36	43	53	23	22	5	259
<i>Human Geography: Landscapes of Human Activity</i> (Publisher: McGraw-Hill)	31	40	29	41	46	24	36	7	258
<i>The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography</i> (Publisher: Pearson/Savvas)	31	45	40	44	62	30	36	8	296

In conclusion, we are requesting a 60 day public review of “**The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography**,” published by Pearson/Savvas. It is a comprehensive and complete overview of a basic introductory course in human geography. The text and its supplementary materials are superior to others. It is aligned with the College Board Framework. The course is an important part of our District's goal of preparing students for college and career readiness. This book better meets the new standards for this course established by the College Board and will make both learning and teaching AP Human Geography more efficient. We are confident that the new textbook will help us with those goals.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is the recommendation of administration that “**The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography**” be placed on a 60-day public review.

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**INITIATED BY:**

Michael Bejarano  
Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education

Date: May 13, 2021

Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent