**AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**

**Free Response Questions Quick Tips**

1. **Read through ALL of the questions carefully first.**

The worst thing you can do is give a great answer to a question not asked or not answer something that you knew because you rushed through the question.

1. **Circle the key words from each FRQ first and jot down ideas for each FRQ.**

Take 10 minutes and relax. DON’T RUSH! Circle the words from each question. Get a sense of which question you’ll need more time on and jot down notes about each section. Get a GLOBAL scale of the FRQs.

1. **Go local not loco!**

Once you have looked at ALL of the questions, go local. Focus on the question. Take your time. Don’t RUSH! Think before you write. Don’t go loco: don’t panic if you aren’t sure about one part – try to make a connection to something you’ve learned. Think about what they are trying to see that you know.

1. **Set up your answer exactly the way the question is presented.**

For example: If there is an (a) and a (b), you answer should have an (a) and a (b). Make it clear when you are answering a. Feel free to skip spaces so you can come back later to the question. You’ll have plenty of time.

1. **In your answer, RESTATE the essential vocabulary found in the question.**

Use the vocabulary they gave you. NEVER use pronouns or generalities: They, It, he or she. Use words like More Developed Countries (then put MDCs in parenthesis).

1. **Remember: there is no penalty for wrong information!**

You can’t contradict yourself, but brainstorm your answer. If they ask for two, write more if you can. Put your two best first.

1. **Use the terms of the class.**

The more vocabulary correctly used the better. Use the terms, define the terms, give examples.

1. **Explain everything.**

When in doubt go to EXPLAIN. Define the term using two or more sentences. Give examples. Consider giving ANTI-examples.

1. **Proof Read.**

Once done, read the questions again. Then read your answers. Did you do it right?

1. **Write legibly.**

Take your time and give your best font!

**11 Key Steps to Teaching Free Response Skills**

1. Remember answering a FRQ is a skill

 -Skill driven activity that takes time to teach and time for students to learn

2. Content driven not writing driven

 -No need for elaborate writing or 5 paragraph structure

 -Split into segments (organize)

 -Don’t just vomit on the page

3. FRQ’s are scored NOT graded

 -Rubric only adds points -No points lost for false/wrong information

4. Your audience is a child

 -Pretend as if your audience is a five year old who has NO government knowledge

 -There are NO points for implicit statements ONLY explicit statements

 -Restate the question before moving into the question- always loop it back

5. Vernacular is key

 -Define buzz words and make vocabulary become commonplace to all

 (i.e. beltway, divided government, spin, party in power, franking privilege)

6. Linkage-- Always answer why, how, who... say because….

 -Mark up verbs

7. More examples mean better scores (**SPARE TIRE EXAMPLE)**

 -If it asks for 2 give 3, if it asks for 3 give 4

-always hedge your bets by giving extra examples/explanations but be sure NOT to contradict and place each extra explanation in a **separate paragraph** to avoid confusion

 -**EXCEPT** if it asks for **MOST IMPORTANT** then only put one answer

8. If skill isn’t there, then rewrite

 -If skill isn’t demonstrated on FRQ (no definition of buzzwords or no extra examples or

 no linkage)

 -give back to students to rewrite the FRQ

 -it is a resocialization process -- not a DBQ or essay but an FRQ

9. Do not fear an FRQ

 -It can be easily mastered, taught and learned

10. No Pronouns. Never use pronouns. Write more exact FRQs.

11. WRITE LEGIBLY!!!!