**PART 1: BOOK REVIEW**

Why Geography Matters: Three Challenges Facing America: Climate Change, The Rise of China, and

Global Terrorism – Harm de Blij

Read the book and use the following guide to write a book review. The book review should be typed. Please double space and use a font no larger than 12-point.

Label each of the parts of the paper as follows:

I. Summary (40 points)

Write a summary of the book. In summarizing the book, include summaries of concepts discussed, important knowledge that comes from the book, interesting highlights, etc.

II. Analysis of the Book (30 points)

Think about the following questions while writing your analysis of the book: What is the author’s main idea? What is the main point that the author would like to get across to the reader? What evidence does the author use to get the main idea across to the reader? Provide a passage from the book as evidence of the author’s main idea and explain why it reflects the author’s point of view.

III. Relevance (30 points)

How does the book relate to our world today or to your own life experiences? What are the broader themes that we can all learn from? Site specific examples from current events that link to content from the book (you can use book examples as well, but you must link it to something in the world today that is not mentioned in the book). To whom would you recommend the book?

IV. Themes of Geography (30 points)

What examples of the five themes of geography are present in the book? \*See the next page for the five themes of geography.

V. Personal Appraisal of the Book (30 points)

Did you like the book? What aspects did you find the most interesting? What could the author have done to make the book better?

VI. Discussion Question (40 points)

Based on what you have read in the book and learned so far, answer the following question

thoroughly and thoughtfully: Why does geography matter?

**FIVE THEMES OF GEOGRAPHY**

**1. Location**

Most geographic study begins with learning the location of places. Location can be absolute or relative. Absolute location provides a definite reference to locate a place. The reference can be latitude and longitude, a street address, or even the Township and Range system. Relative location describes a place with respect to its environment and its connection to other places.

**2. Place**

Place describes the human and physical characteristics of a location. Physical characteristics include a description of such things as the mountains, rivers, beaches, topography, and animal and plant life of a place. Human characteristics include the human-designed cultural features of a place, from land use and architecture to forms of livelihood and religion to food and folk culture to transportation and communication networks.

**3. Human-Environment Interaction**

This theme considers how humans adapt to and modify the environment. Humans shape the landscape through their interaction with the land; this has both positive and negative effects on the environment.

**4. Movement**

This theme studies movement and migration across the planet. Humans move. In addition, ideas, fads, goods, resources, and communication all travel distances.

**5. Region**

Region divides the world into manageable units for geographic study. Regions have some sort of characteristic that unifies the area. Regions can be formal, functional, or vernacular. Formal regions are those that are designated by official boundaries, such as cities, states, counties, and countries.

For the most part, they are clearly indicated and publicly known. Functional regions are defined by their connections. For example, the circulation area for a major newspaper is a functional region.

Vernacular regions are perceived regions, such as “The South,” “The Midwest,” or the “Middle East;” they have no formal boundaries but are understood in our mental maps of the world.