

\_\_\_/50 points possible

## AP Biology Summer 2016 Reading Assignment

**Title:** The Sixth Extinction: *An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert

**Directions:** Take notes as you read the book. Summarize the main points after you finish reading each chapter in a concept map. This will provide a great foundation for later writing your report. A one page concept map for each of the 13 chapters (26 points) and a hard copy of your report (24 points) are due on the first day of class on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Title each section of your paper (Introduction, Analysis and Evaluation, and Conclusion). See below for details.

**Format of report:** double-spaced, Times New Roman, size 12 font, 1 inch margins on all sides. Note that your paper will be submitted to [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com) at the beginning of the school year. Expected length of your report is 4-5 pages (please try to print on both sides of your paper if possible). Be sure to include:

- Heading (centered at top of page 1) for paper
- Title (underlined) of book and author
- Your name, date, and class (RHS A.P. Biology)

**1. Introduction (8 points):** Type about 1 page to explain the main themes of the book. Provide a general overview of the author's topic, main points, and argument. What is the thesis? What are the important conclusions? Don't try to summarize each chapter or every angle, the concept maps provided that step. Choose the ones that are most significant and interesting to you.

**2. Analysis and Evaluation (12 points):** In this section you analyze or critique the book. Type 2.5 - 3.5 pages while organizing your writing into multiple paragraphs. You can write about your own opinions; just be sure that you explain and support them with examples (this is that essential part of science...providing evidence, ex. page numbers). Some questions you need to consider:

- Did the author achieve her purpose?
- What applicability does the book have to your life and the actions that you take each day?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the book?
- Since this is non-fiction, what are the author's qualifications to write about the subject?
- What is your overall response to the book?
- Did you find it interesting, informative, etc.?
- Would you recommend it to others? Why or why not?

**3. Conclusion (4 points):** In about 0.5 pages and within one paragraph, briefly conclude by pulling your thoughts together. Describe what impression the book left you with, or emphasize what you want your reader to know about it.

**Remember:** Turn in your report along with the concept maps of each chapter on the first day of school!