AP HuG Name: Period: Date:

**Rwanda Genocide Response Topics Paper – Due Monday (12/14/15)**

Choose **any 5** of the following statements to respond based on *Hotel Rwanda* and/or your research with a *4-7 sentence response each*. Explain (1)why the statement happened (or the history of it), (2)what stands out to you in the statement and (3)what geographic affects/themes are involved in it. Highlight or circle the 5 you choose and then staple this to your paper.

• Rwandans shared a common culture and had an organized government structure before the colonists arrived.

• Belgian and German colonists divided the people of Rwanda into 3 different racial classifications: Hutu, Tutsi, and Twa.

• The Belgians thought that the Tutsis were a superior people because they were more “white.”

• After independence, the Hutus gained power and oppressed the Tutsis, using the same racial classification that was used again them.

• The genocide was planned and carried out through orchestrated public opinion campaigns using radio, television, newspapers, and other hate propaganda.

• Mostly Tutsis were killed, but moderate Hutus were also targeted.

• The killing took place everywhere - in houses and neighborhoods, even in churches and schools where people had fled to take safe haven and find a place of sanctuary.

• The perpetrators/killers were not only members of militia forces. They were also regular people

– teachers, bank managers, clerks, business people, neighbors and friends.

• The international community ignored warning signs of the genocide.

• The Hutu government used the media and the school system to broadcast racist ideas about the Tutsis and to incite violence.

• Although the international community had agreed after the Holocaust to intervene if genocide happened again in the world, they failed to do so in Rwanda.

• The genocide might have been stopped if the international community had been willing to get involved.

• In around 100 days, nearly one million innocent and unarmed people were killed – nearly 1/3 of all of the Tutsis on earth were wiped out.

• Years later, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and US President Bill Clinton apologized to the Rwandan people, saying that they should have done more to stop the genocide.

• Rwanda was a shattered country at the end of the genocide. Many leaders had been killed, the roads, buildings and services had been badly damaged and many people were traumatized by the violence.

• Many people fled the horror of the genocide and went to neighboring countries like Burundi, Congo and Tanzania to live in refugee camps. Some of the perpetrators of the genocide also lived in the refugee camps.

• The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda is run by the United Nations and has judges from all over the world. It is prosecuting key planners and leaders of the genocide, but the process is very slow and only the top people are being brought to trial.

• Over 100,000 people are in jail in Rwanda today awaiting trial by the Rwandan criminal courts. Not only are there many people to be tried, but the justice system in Rwanda still needs to be rebuilt after many of the lawyers, judges and staff were killed during the genocide.