



**Name:** Paul T. Gray, Jr.

**Content area(s) that you currently teach:** AP® Human Geography, AP® Environmental/AP® Human Geography combined class, World Religions

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Paul T. Gray Jr. holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and Social Studies and a master's of Social Sciences Education from Arkansas Tech University at Russellville.

Gray has taught geography, world religions, and AP® human geography for the past 21 years. For the last two years, he has co-taught a combined AP® environmental science/human geography course. He is chair of the Social Sciences and Humanities Department at Russellville High School and is a National Board Certified teacher. Gray has presented at numerous geographic conferences throughout the United States, Europe and Australia and is a former member of the AP® human geography test development committee at Educational Testing Service.

Gray is the 2008 Arkansas Teacher of the Year.

Gray was selected as the 2008 Grosvenor Teacher Fellow by the National Geographic Society and traveled on a National Geographic expedition to Antarctica. Gray received the Distinguished Teaching Award from the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) in 2003 and was named Russellville's Teacher of the Year in 2004 and 2008.

Gray is the 2013 president of the NCGE and is the co-author of the recently released *AP Study Guide* companion to the tenth edition *Human Geography: People, Place, and Culture* textbook by Fouberg, Murphy, and de Blij and published by Wiley.

Gray was also a committee member on the writing team of Geography for Life, the newly published national geography standards, and the writing team of the National Science Foundation grant Road Map for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Geography Education Project - Instructional Materials and Professional Development Committee. Gray is currently a member of the Arkansas Educator Leader Cadre

for the Partnership for Assessment of College and Career Readiness (PARCC).

Joe DiMaggio was once asked why he hustled on every play (even ones that had little effect on the outcome of the game or his running from centerfield to the dugout after the third out). DiMaggio replied, "Because there's always some kid who may be seeing me for the first time. I owe him my best." Gray said that each day he tries to approach every single moment of every single class like DiMaggio did in centerfield for the New York Yankees. "I owe each student the best that I have to give each day. If I give my classes all I have each day, the students get the most learning opportunities possible, but they also get to learn by example what hard work looks like and that success in everything depends upon the effort one is willing to expend."

Gray also spends a great deal of energy making sure every student knows how much he cares about them personally. Gray encourages people to think about the teacher who had the most effect on them. He doubts people remember the individual lessons or the discipline rules of the classroom. Instead, he expects everyone remembers the passion and energy that teacher gave to his or her students and their work and how much he or she cared about each individual.

Gray is available to speak, conduct workshops, and/or serve on committees around the following topics:

- Geography education
- Geographic literacy and spatial thinking
- Teacher leadership
- Teaching and learning in the affective domain
- Recruiting minority, low SES and other marginalized students into AP® classes
- Advanced Placement® classes and programs