Map Analysis Activity
AP Human Geography

Directions: Select two different maps from a newspaper, magazine, the Internet, or any another source. Examine the map carefully and think about the choices the cartographer (mapmaker) made. You may choose to locate a choropleth, cartogram, proportional symbol, dot or isoline map. Pick any 2 different types!

Answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper and then attach answers to your maps.

Analysis:
1. Describe the topic/theme/subject/purpose of the map.
2. What symbols, patterns, and/or colors affect the message to the casual viewer?
3. Is there some form of data/region/site the cartographer chose to display on this map? If so, what is it? Why do you think she/he included this?
4. What are you thoughts on the cartographer’s overall map design? Does it have a legend/key? Scale? Author? Date?
5. Do you find the map useful? What are some of the map’s advantages and limitations? Is the map accurate or “real”? Why or why not? Explain your answer.