**AP Human Geography**

**Activities and Reading in the Geography of the United States (ARGUS)**

**Activity HX, Urban Land Value**

**Part 1: Measurements of Land Value**

1. Why and where does abandonment occur in urban areas?
2. What factors influence the building of developments on the urban fringe?
3. What solutions are there to deal with both urban area extremes?
4. How did various inner city neighborhoods become undesirable places to live?
5. How can geography help us understand this complicated urban decline issue?
6. To what extent does desirability influence land values?
7. Why does land decrease in value as one goes farther from the CBD?
8. Why are many people unable to differentiate between land and housing value?

**Part 2: A Model of Land Value**

1. What other expenses should one consider to determine the true cost of where one lives?
2. How is the value line related to von Thunen’s concentric circles of land use?
3. What types of services have extremely steep value lines?
4. What do you think happens at the intersection of different land uses?

**Part 3: Thought Experiments**

1. What role does population growth play in altering value lines?
2. What role does better transportation play in altering value lines?
3. Can you think of a situation where too much population growth and traffic congestion was a detriment to the classic model of value lines?
4. How might mass transit influence value lines?
5. This CD was made in 1998. Have situations changed in some cities that have made it economically feasible to reinvest in what were undesirable properties?

**Part 4: Seeking Solutions**

1. What do Canadian cities do differently that make these inner city areas still desirable?
2. Discuss how smart growth, urban growth boundaries, new urbanism, and transit oriented development are solutions to the classic example of urban decay portrayed in the CD.