

Advanced Placement Language and Composition (11th Grade)
Summer Reading Assignments

The summer reading assignment should be typed, neatly formatted for ease of reading, and printed for submission by the second class meeting. Students will be enrolled into Turnitin.com and assignments will be submitted to the assignment drop box. Do not email your assignments.

Read *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell and complete the activity.

Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell asks the question: What makes high-achievers different?

This book is stacked with real life examples to prove his thesis: that success takes a little bit of luck and a lot of practice. Gladwell's argument is well developed and interesting. Since argument is the major focus of AP English Language and Composition, analysis and discussion of Gladwell's work is a good place for us to begin.

1. Dialectical Journal: Complete at least 10 entries. See example below.
2. As you read, concentrate on Gladwell's unique definition of success. Notice how he defines and presents this abstract concept through his creative chapter titles, research, personal stories, and observations. You'll be surprised about how much you will learn from this original "take" on success.

Dialectical Journal Example: As you read, select and record **10** interesting quotes from your book. Then respond to each of your quotes in one well-developed paragraph. Please pick quotes from the beginning, middle, and the end of your book.

Here are some response starter options:

- ☐ Explain, show, or interpret how this passage is important.
What is it showing? What do you learn or see?
New insights?
Significance... What do you learn from the quote/text?
- ☐ Make a personal connection with the passage.
I remember... I recall... I have seen... Once I read... Here you need to be very specific!
Be sure to tie this back to the quote/text.
- ☐ Make a global reflection.
How does the passage connect to society and the world in general?
What conclusions might you draw about people and/or life?
This idea/event seems to be important because. . .
- ☐ I think the author is trying to say that . . .

Additionally, you should provide a typed response to each of the following questions.

Please include the questions and your responses. Questions should be answered in complete sentences. *Consider these questions as you read. Take notes in a notebook or on separate sheets of paper. Let these questions direct your annotations.

Introduction "The Roseto Mystery":

1. What is the Roseto Mystery?
2. What overarching idea is Gladwell establishing in his introduction?

Chapter One "The Matthew Effect":

1. Explain the author's viewpoint regarding "The Story of Success".
2. Are personal qualities the sole reason one becomes an outlier?
3. What is the consequence of "prematurely writing people off as failures"?

Chapter Two “The 10,000-Hour Rule”:

1. Explain the 10,000-Hour Rule.
2. Consider the following: “Practice isn’t the thing you do once you’re good. It’s the thing you do that makes you good.” Explain how this philosophy was at work for Bill Joy, The Beatles, and Bill Gates.

Chapter Three “The Trouble with Geniuses, Part 1”:

1. Describe the difference between ‘divergence testing’ and ‘convergence testing’. Is one more significant than the other?
2. Gladwell states that communities and companies in American society “are convinced that those at the very top of the IQ scale have the greatest potential.” After reading the chapter, explain why you either agree or disagree with this statement.

Chapter Four “The Trouble with Geniuses, Part 2”:

1. Compare and contrast Langan and Oppenheimer.
2. What is the difference between “concerted cultivation” and “accomplishment of natural growth”?

Chapter Five “The Three Lessons of Joe Flom”:

1. Explain Gladwell’s statement as it relates to Joe Flom: “Buried in that setback was a golden opportunity.”
2. Consider the following quote: “Hard work is a prison sentence only if it does not have meaning.” Explain how this quote relates to the chapter.

Chapter Six “Harlan, Kentucky”:

1. Describe the “culture of honor” that exists in the Appalachian Mountains.
2. What are the “cultural legacies” as described in this chapter? Why are they significant to understand when dealing with people?

Chapter Seven “The Ethnic Theory of Plane Crashes”:

1. Describe the significance of the “willingness to change” as it relates to Korean Air.
2. What is Gladwell explaining about the importance of communication?

Chapter Eight “Rice Paddies and Math Tests”:

1. After reading this section of the book, have your opinions changed about math classes and math ability? Explain why or why not.
2. Describe the connection between the “10,000-Hour Rule” and the wet-rice farmers in Asia.

Chapter Nine “Marita’s Bargain”:

1. Describe the significance of summer vacation as it relates to different groups of students. Why is this significant?
2. Gladwell states “success follows a predictable course.” How does this quote apply to Marita? How does this apply to you?

Epilogue “A Jamaican Story”:

1. What does Gladwell mean when he states, “The outlier in the end is not an outlier at all.”
2. Explain what Gladwell means when he states, “That is the story of my mother’s path to success – and it isn’t true.”