

## Summer Reading 2018-2019

AP Language and Composition

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## INFORMATIONAL SHEET

Welcome to AP Language and Composition! This course is different from most English classes you have taken before. We will continue to read and discuss great literature, but we will also delve into rhetoric, examining the power of language and building our skills in producing sound, well-supported arguments.

Over the summer, the books you are being asked to read will help establish a critical foundation for this class. *Elements of Style* will introduce and reinforce principles of effective writing. *Outliers* will take us into the world of argument, examining how Malcolm Gladwell builds his claims about what makes or breaks a person's chance at success using evidence that ranges from the rice paddy fields in Asia to the KIPP academy in New York.

### Required Reading:

- Gladwell, Malcolm. *Outliers: The Story of Success*. New York: Little, Brown, 2008.
- Strunk, William, and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style: Fourth Edition*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1999.

### Assignment in Brief (due when we return to school in August):

1. **Read *Elements of Style* carefully.** There is no corresponding written assignment, but you will need to be familiar with this book throughout the year. Remember that this is the AP Language and Composition class—we will be interested in what makes good and even exceptional writing.
2. **Read *Outliers* carefully** and complete the below assignments. You are encouraged—not required—to annotate the book.

### The following components make up the complete summer reading assignment:

1. **COMPLETION OF THE *OUTLIERS* STUDY GUIDE (see reverse side):** As you read *Outliers*, complete the provided study guide (see bottom of this document) to examine the claims and evidence used by Gladwell. You may type or handwrite. **Please write in complete sentences!**
2. **PRINT AND ANNOTATE TWO BOOK REVIEWS:** Find two **credible** reviews of *Outliers*. You might find them online or in a newspaper. A credible review meets one or both of the following requirements: It is published by a reputable publication like *The New York Times* or is written by a respected authority (**not just anything on the internet!**).
3. **PRINT AND ANNOTATE AUTHOR BACKGROUND:** Find background information about Malcolm Gladwell. You are looking for specific things such as the following: what in his experience, training, or profession made him prepared to write this book; why he chose to write about this subject; why he chose to write about this subject at this time, etc. Print and annotate this information.

**NOTE for #2 & #3:** Annotations are **MORE** than just highlights! To qualify as annotations, you must write an actual comment – more than just “I agree!” or “So true!” You might write a comment noting an interesting quote in the book review, or – if you are agreeing/disagreeing with a comment – a reason *why* you feel the way you do about the comment. **Annotations must be commentary!** (Aim for 3-5 annotations/document)

4. **TYPE AND PRINT SHORT ESSAY/BOOK REVIEW:** Using the information you have gathered (study guide, book reviews, author background), write a thoughtful book review for *Outliers*. Include the following:
  - a. A **2- to 3-sentence summary** of the book;
  - b. At least **3 to 5 sentences about the author** – include his “fitness” to write the book, why he chose to write it at the time he did, what he wants his readers to know or to learn;
  - c. At least **3 to 5 sentences about the public reaction** to/reception of the book—include **one or two cited quotations** from the **book reviews**;
  - d. A **paragraph stating your reaction** to the book explained in terms of how the book affected you and why—be sure to include **two or three quotations from the book**—be sure to make a final recommendation about the book
  - e. A properly formatted MLA Works Cited page which cites the sources you used/referenced in your essay (including the text *Outliers*). All quotes must include in-text citations. **If you are unsure of how to properly format your MLA works cited page, please use the Purdue OWL website or EasyBib.com** (though be careful – Easybib's citation system isn't always accurate!).

You may put all this information in the order you wish. You may write more if you wish. The essay must be typed, double-spaced, in MLA format. You must include parenthetical in-text citations citing your source and the page number. Example: (Gladwell 25). **Use the Purdue Online Writing Lab to help with MLA formatting if you are unsure of the requirements. Be ready to turn in a printed copy and submit it to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) (directions for online submission will be provided after we return to school in August).**

### **Be prepared to submit your summer assignments in the following format:**

- Submit materials in a **folder with prongs** (hole punch your papers and place in the prongs) OR **using a 1-inch 3-ring notebook**. DO NOT FASTEN WITH ONLY A PAPERCLIP or BINDER CLIP!
- **Place papers in this order:** your final book review on top, then study guide, highlighted book reviews, and highlighted author information.

**Come to class ready for intensive discussion of *Outliers*. Happy reading!**

**(TURN OVER FOR STUDY GUIDE FOR USE IN COMPLETING COMPONENT #1 OF THE ASSIGNMENT DETAILED ABOVE)**

# Outliers: The Story of Success

# STUDY GUIDE

*Outliers* is an example of an argument. Read the definition of argument below:

- **Argument:** to take a stand and to defend that stand against other possible stands. Given a subject, what stand can be defended? On what grounds can that stand be defended? Why are the author's grounds of defense better than other grounds?

Essential components of a good argument include:

- **Claims:** assertions or statements that are open to challenge
- **Evidence:** something that furnishes proof; anything that helps prove a claim (facts, statistics, anecdotes, research data, interviews, etc.)

**Answer the following questions on a separate document (TYPED, in MLA format). Print it and place it in your binder to submit in August.**

## INTRODUCTION: The Roseto Mystery

1. Define the term "outlier"
2. From where did the term outlier come?
3. At the end of the introduction, Gladwell concludes with his purpose for the book. What is it?
4. Offer a brief criticism of this opening. How well do you think the story of Roseto establishes Gladwell's purpose?

**\*\*Note to the reader:** Gladwell divides his book into parts. You'll notice each part has a claim that is used to support his major claim about outliers. Within each part, he includes chapters that then support the claim of that part. Think of these claims as Chinese boxes: the claim of each chapter supports the claim of each part which supports the claim of the book as a whole.

## CHAPTER ONE: The Matthew Effect

1. What is Gladwell's claim in this chapter? (Answer in complete sentences.)
2. What supporting evidence does he provide? (Answer in complete sentences, using direct quotes or paraphrases from the text.)

## CHAPTER TWO: The 10,000-Hour Rule

1. What is Gladwell's claim in this chapter? (Answer in complete sentences.)
2. What supporting evidence does he provide? (Answer in complete sentences, using direct quotes or paraphrases from the text.)

## CHAPTER THREE: The Trouble with Geniuses, Part I

1. What is Gladwell's claim in this chapter? (Answer in complete sentences.)
2. What supporting evidence does he provide? (Answer in complete sentences, using direct quotes or paraphrases from the text.)

## CHAPTER FOUR: The Trouble with Geniuses, Part II

1. What is Gladwell's claim in this chapter? (Answer in complete sentences.)
2. What supporting evidence does he provide? (Answer in complete sentences, using direct quotes or paraphrases from the text.)

## CHAPTER FIVE: The Three Lessons of Joe Flom

1. What is Gladwell's claim in this chapter? (Answer in complete sentences.)
2. What supporting evidence does he provide? (Answer in complete sentences, using direct quotes or paraphrases from the text.)

## CHAPTER SIX: Harlan, Kentucky

1. What is Gladwell's claim in this chapter? (Answer in complete sentences.)
2. What supporting evidence does he provide? (Answer in complete sentences, using direct quotes or paraphrases from the text.)

## CHAPTER SEVEN: The Ethnic Theory of Plane Crashes

1. What is Gladwell's claim in this chapter? (Answer in complete sentences.)
2. What supporting evidence does he provide? (Answer in complete sentences, using direct quotes or paraphrases from the text.)

## CHAPTER EIGHT: Rice Paddies and Math Tests

1. What is Gladwell's claim in this chapter? (Answer in complete sentences.)
2. What supporting evidence does he provide? (Answer in complete sentences, using direct quotes or paraphrases from the text.)

## CHAPTER NINE: MARITA'S BARGAIN

1. What is Gladwell's claim in this chapter? (Answer in complete sentences.)
2. What supporting evidence does he provide? (Answer in complete sentences, using direct quotes or paraphrases from the text.)

## EPILOGUE: A Jamaican Story (answer in complete sentences)

1. What impression does Gladwell give of his ancestors in the first part of the epilogue?
2. In the second part of the epilogue, what details does Gladwell give to help prove the argument of the book? (Take note of the summary that Gladwell offers at the end of this part.)
3. What details does Gladwell give in the third part to reinforce his argument?
4. How does Gladwell connect the story of Daisy Nation to the stories of the other "characters" in his book?
5. What is Gladwell's final conclusion?
6. Take note of the Notes section. List a few of the resources Gladwell used to write his book: