

## AP Language and Composition: Summer Assignment

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We very much look forward to working with you in AP Language and Composition. This is a rigorous course which will require you to read a great deal and where you will learn how to write for a variety of purposes, with an additional focus on analyzing prose, media, and the world around you. In order to hit the ground running in July, the following assignments must be completed over the summer. If you have any questions, contact one of us by email or come by our classrooms before the end of the school year.

### **You will be required to complete two different assignments this summer:**

1. Read/analyze *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcom Gladwell, and complete the questions listed below. (If you need a copy of the book, check one out from Mrs. Campbell in the library before break!)
2. Core Values Assignment
3. Both assignments are due the first day of school. Read carefully, and be prepared to have seminar discussions and write an on demand essay on *Outliers* the first week of school.

**\*Plagiarism of any kind—either from your peers or the internet—will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic zero on this assignment and possible removal from the class. You will be uploading all work to Turnitin.com once school starts, so stay off the internet...don't work together with friends...and make sure that all work is your own.**

### **What is an outlier?**

“Outlier is a scientific term to describe things or phenomena that lie outside normal experience. In the summer, in Paris, we expect most days to be somewhere between warm and very hot. But imagine if you had a day in the middle of August where the temperature fell below freezing. That day would be outlier. And while we have a very good understanding of why summer days in Paris are warm or hot, we know a good deal less about why a summer day in Paris might be freezing cold. In this book I'm interested in people who are outliers—in men and women who, for one reason or another, are so accomplished and so extraordinary and so outside of ordinary experience that they are as puzzling to the rest of us as a cold day in August.”

-Malcolm Gladwell

**Part One:** You are required to read all of *Outliers*, preferably annotating as you go. Either answer the even OR odd questions—that's ten questions total. In addition, everyone needs to answer the Introduction “Roseto Mystery” question. Each response must be ½ page typed, 12 point font, double spaced, 1 inch margins. You also need at least one quote for support (cited correctly, using MLA) in each response.

**\*There will be a reading quiz on *Outliers* the first week of school.**

### **Introduction “The Roseto Mystery” (Everyone needs to respond to this question)**

What is the Roseto Mystery? What overarching idea is Gladwell establishing in his introduction? (Again, all students answer this question)

### **Chapter One “The Matthew Effect”**

1. Explain the author’s viewpoint regarding “The Story of Success.” Are personal qualities the sole reason one becomes an outlier? Explain your answer providing support from the text.
2. What is the consequence of “prematurely writing people off as failures”?

### **Chapter Two “The 10,000-Hour Rule”**

3. Explain the 10,000-Hour Rule.
4. 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”**

5. Describe the difference between ‘divergence testing’ and ‘convergence testing.’ Is one more significant than the other?
6. 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”**

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

### **Chapter Five “The Three Lessons of Joe Flom”**

9. Explain Gladwell’s statement as it relates to Joe Flom: “Buried in that setback was a golden opportunity.”
10. 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”**

11. Describe the “culture of honor” that exists in the Appalachian Mountains.
12. 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”**

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

### **Chapter Eight “Rice Paddies and Math Tests”**

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

### **Chapter Nine “Marita’s Bargain”**

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

### **Epilogue “A Jamaican Story”**

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

## Part Two: Core Values Informative Assignment

### What Are Core Values?

- Core values are the fundamental beliefs of a person or organization.
- The core values are the guiding principles that dictate behavior and action.
- Core values can help people to know what is right from wrong; they can help companies to determine if they are on the right path and fulfilling their business goals; and they create an unwavering and unchanging guide.
- There are many different types of core values and many different examples of core values depending upon the context.

### Think About...

- What guides you in *your* life...
- What qualities do *you* look for in *your* friendships? Relationships?
- What do *you* try to live *your* life by?

### Your Writing Task:

1. It is not often that we are provided with the opportunity to write from the first person point of view. Here, I am encouraging, rather, requiring that you do so. I want to become informed about what *you* value in your life; what guides *you* on a daily basis.
2. In 3 thoughtful paragraphs (1/2 page each), you are to inform me about 3 of *your* core values, identifying why those 3 values are important in *your* life.
3. Organization wise, it might be wise to focus on one core value per paragraph.
4. Please also identify how *your* life might be different without these values, what challenges these values present, as well as who influenced your values (family, friends, teachers, classmates, co-workers, coaches, etc.).
5. As always, your paragraph(s) should be typed in MLA format, to include:
  1. **12 point Times New Roman font**
  2. **Double Spaced**
  3. **Header with specific value stated**

### Some Examples of Core Values Include:

Family	Positivity	Honesty	Respect
Loyalty	Fitness	Knowledge	Education
Intelligence	Passion	Creativity	Love

Kindness	Patience	Gratitude	Laughter
Accountability	Generosity	Perseverance	Faith
Equality	Patriotism	Optimism	Community
Communication	Forgiveness	Freedom	Success
Strength	Professionalism	Wisdom	Confidence
Individuality/Independence		Manners/Politeness	
Modesty	Money/Financial Freedom	Honor	Credibility
Problem-solving	Trust	Approval	Fun Excitement