

# The Village School's AP English Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignments



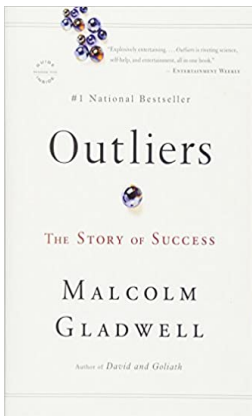
Please complete and turn in the following activities  
on the first day of school in August.

# The Village School of Naples

## Required Summer Reading for AP English Language and Composition

Dear AP Student,

Welcome to AP Language and Composition! I am excited for the stimulating and challenging year of rhetorical analysis we have ahead of us. The purpose of this course is to provide you with a rigorous, college level course that helps you “become skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts and to become skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes” (Collegeboard). To help prepare you for the reading requirements of AP English Language and Composition, and to introduce you to the type of analysis expected, **I ask that you read Malcolm Gladwell’s *Outliers: The Story of Success* this summer and complete the below activities.** We will use Gladwell’s text to set the foundation of our study into style, purpose, analysis, and argumentation. **You are also required to read and annotate one additional book of your choice-- this second choice may be fiction, nonfiction, or a collection of short stories or poetry.** I encourage you to select a title that interests you, but please feel free to reach out to me if you would like suggestions.



*Outliers: The Story of Success* is a nonfiction novel exploring the lives of extremely successful people. Gladwell defines an outlier as a “scientific term to describe things or phenomena that lie outside normal experience...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.” Gladwell further asserts that “we should look at the world that surrounds the successful-- their culture, their family, their generation, and the idiosyncratic experiences of their upbringing” to understand how to make the most of our own potential!

Available for purchase [here](#). / ISBN: 978-0316017930

Your summer reading assignment has four components. Detailed directions for Parts I-III are on page 3.

- Part I: Closely read and annotate Malcolm Gladwell’s [Outliers: The Story of Success](#).
- Part II: Complete a Reaction Journal.
- Part III: Write an argumentative essay.
- Part IV: Read and annotate one additional book of your choosing.

I am excited to be your teacher this year and look forward to seeing you in August. Please bring your annotated books and completed assignments to class on the first day of school.

Best wishes,

**Mrs. Redondo**

[lredondo@tvsnaples.org](mailto:lredondo@tvsnaples.org)

### **Part I: Close Reading / Annotating the Text**

Do a close reading of the text in which you read and make notes in the margins. This is your chance to communicate with the book! **Star or asterisk** favorite and/or insightful passages, mark “?” near confusing passages, **box** unfamiliar vocabulary terms and **write down** their definitions in the margins, **highlight** interesting information and record your reaction, and **comment** on anything significant. When you return in August, I should see an active conversation between you and the text in the form of annotations.

### **Part II: Reaction Journal**

While you read and annotate the text, consider your reaction to each of the stories Gladwell tells. What makes this particular ‘outlier’ special? What facts and figures does Gladwell include to develop his central argument about success? What conclusions does Gladwell draw as a result of each of these stories? Is there anything else you would want explained or included? What else about this chapter stands out to you?

After finishing each chapter of the book, neatly hand-write (or type) a journal entry of 6-8 sentences to explore your reaction. Include a direct citation with page number that demonstrates your understanding of how the chapter develops Gladwell’s overall message and purpose.

### **Part III: Argumentative Essay**

Compose an essay that *defends, challenges, or qualifies* Gladwell’s assertion that “if you work hard enough and assert yourself, and use your mind and imagination, you can shape the world to your desires” (Gladwell 151). [Please note that a qualification should present itself as either a counter argument with refutation or an identified concession within your paper. You still need to take a stance.]

- **Type your essay in MLA format.**
- **Present your ideas in a clear and organized manner.**
- **Use facts, examples, personal experience, and connections from your reading to support your claim.**
  - **Do you or don’t you agree with Gladwell’s assertion? I am challenging you to think deeply about your readings and apply them to a bigger and personal idea.**
- **Be sure to make specific connections to Gladwell and any other sources you choose to include in your argument.**