

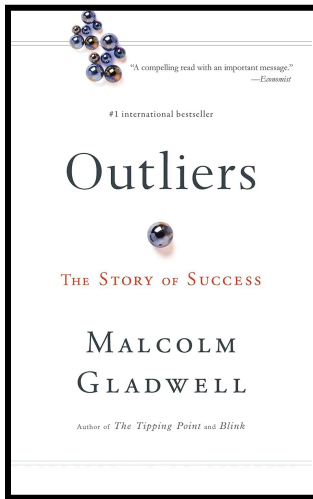
AP Language and Composition

Summer Reading Assignment 2026

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The AP Language and Composition course differs from a typical English class. The AP Language Test does **not include fiction**, so our preparation will focus entirely on reading nonfiction materials, such as speeches, essays, and excerpts from nonfiction books. While we will still read *some* fiction in class because I believe it's important, our primary emphasis will be on nonfiction, as that is what will appear on the test.

Your summer reading assignment, listed below, will be due on the **first day of class**.



Part 1: Read and Annotate

Buy a **print copy** of the book Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell. Read it and annotate the book as you read. Annotations should respond to the text in a meaningful way, with comments, questions, ideas written in the margins, definitions, or anything else of note. I want to see consistent, genuine, insightful annotations.

It does not matter which version of the book you buy.

Assessment: When we return to school in the fall, you will have a test on the book. The test will not be on the first day of school, but it will come early in the year. I will also check the print copy of your book and briefly review your annotations on the first day of school.

Part 2: AP Glossary Terms

Below is a glossary of rhetorical devices. Rhetoric is the art of persuasive speech. Memorize the terms and their definitions. Where applicable, offer 1-2 examples for each. (A few terms don't really *take* examples. I trust you to figure out which do and which don't. For the ones that don't, you can just stick to definitions.) Save it, print it, and bring a printed copy when we meet for class. You will be tested on these terms (but, again, not on the first day).

1. Allusion
2. Anaphora
3. Anecdote
4. Antithesis
5. Aphorism
6. Concession
7. Diction
8. Hyperbole
9. Imagery
10. Irony
11. Jargon
12. Juxtaposition
13. Metaphor
14. Metonymy
15. Paradox
16. Parallelism
17. Parody
18. Repetition
19. Rhetorical Questions
20. Satire
21. Simile
22. Syllogism
23. Synecdoche
24. Understatement