WESTCHESTER
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Rising AP English Language and Composition Assignment
Summer 2026

Greetings, Fellow Language Scholars!

Welcome to AP English Language and Composition. In addition to a heavy focus on rhetorical analysis and argument, one of the course's main objectives is to effectively synthesize multiple sources into support for an argument, which is what you'll begin to learn to do this summer.

Your summer work is to carefully read Malcolm Gladwell's *Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know About the People We Don't*. Gladwell is known for his ability to synthesize studies and events that seem to have absolutely nothing in common in an effort to support a larger observation or understanding about the way people think. After you read, your task is to complete a 500 word (approximately) response in which you address what you believe to be Gladwell's main claim. Be sure to support your response with textual evidence.

All WCDS Honor Code expectations apply to this assignment. You should not consult online summaries or other resources, and you should not use generative AI. This is an independent assignment; you should not consult each other.

Please email Mrs. Albert with any questions that you have, and she will forward them to the AP English Language teacher.