

AP English Language and Composition: Summer 2026

For AP English Language and Composition, please read the following two texts and complete the accompanying exercises. Please complete the requested notes in a new composition or notebook designated only for this course. We will use this notebook throughout the year.

1) Thank You for Arguing by Jay Heinrichs. ISBN-13: 978-0307341440

Heinrichs's book outlines the basics of rhetoric, how it has been used throughout history, and how to analyze it effectively. These are the main topics of the course and the fall trimester in particular. The point is to understand how the tools of language can be used to accomplish a purpose.

Exercise

Take notes on the basic theory of rhetoric as Heinrichs presents it throughout his book and compile a glossary of important terms, with examples, that he identifies and defines. Your notes should be detailed and thorough, totaling a minimum of six pages. You will submit them in September so I can check their completion and detail.

2) Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell. ISBN-13: 978-0316017930

Gladwell's book explores the conditions under which people become extraordinary. We are reading it primarily to study how arguments are successfully structured, supported, and framed. Pay attention to the descriptions of what Gladwell asserts makes people "highly successful". Be prepared to engage in discussion and analysis of Gladwell's assertions and argument. Consider the following as you read:

- What is Gladwell's thesis?
- How does he support his thesis?
- What makes his writing interesting?
- What are some counter arguments you could use to undermine his argument?
- What did you learn?

Exercise

As you read each chapter, highlight information in the book that relates to or helps to answer each question above. The notes will be checked during the first week of school, and there will be an assessment of your reading within the first two weeks of school.