AP SEMINAR

Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to AP Capstone! The AP Capstone course is research-intensive and, because of the rigorous calendar for this course, students will be required to complete a summer assignment in preparation for the start of the school year.

In accordance with the key concepts of AP Capstone, this assignment is designed to develop your ability to:

- Work independently, follow directions, and problem solve independent of teachers.
- Analyze nonfiction and explore creative ideas for research projects
- Evaluate presenters in order to learn from their topics as well as the techniques they employ to deliver their information.

For this assignment, there are two tasks.

Task 1 is guided reading questions about the book *Outliers*, by Malcolm Gladwell. These questions must be answered in complete sentences, typed, and printed. We will be submitting them to Turnitin.com **in class** the first week of school.

Task 2 requires you to watch several TED talks and write **ONE PAGE FOR EACH**. **THESE RESPONSES MUST BE TYPED AND PRINTED.** We will be submitting them to Turnitin.com **in class** the first week of school.

ALL TYPED WORK MUST BE TIMES NEW ROMAN, DOUBLE SPACED, SIZE-12 FONT.

You can find models for both tasks on pages 4 and 5. Please refer to these for expectations of length, depth, and detail.

ALL SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS DUE FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH, NO EXCEPTIONS

MR. PANUS

Both tasks MUST BE TYPED and printed. All assignments are due Friday September 4th

Task 1: Guided Reading Questions: As you read *Outliers* answer the following questions.

Introduction

1. What is the Roseto Mystery? What overarching idea is Gladwell establishing in his introduction?

Chapter 1: "The Matthew Effect"

2. Explain the author's viewpoint regarding "The Story of Success." Are personal qualities the sole reason one becomes an outlier?
3. What is the consequence of "prematurely writing people off as failures?"

Chapter 2: "The 10,000-Hour Rule"

4. Explain the 10,000-Hour Rule.
5. 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 3: "The Trouble with Geniuses, Part 1"

6. Describe the difference between 'divergence testing' and 'convergence testing.' Is one more significant than the other?
7. 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 4: "The Trouble with Geniuses, Part 2:"

8. Compare and contrast Langan and Oppenheimer.
9. What is the difference between "concerted cultivation" and "accomplishment of natural growth?"

Chapter 5: "The Three Lessons of Joe Flom"

10. Explain Gladwell's statement as it relates to Joe Flom: "Buried in that setback was a golden opportunity."
11. 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 6: "Harlan, Kentucky":

12. Describe the "culture of honor" that exists in the Appalachian Mountains.
13. What are the "cultural legacies" as described in this chapter? Why are they significant to understand when dealing with people?

Chapter 7: "The Ethnic Theory of Plane Crashes"

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

Chapter 8: "Rice Paddies and Math Tests"

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

Chapter 9: "Marita's Bargain"

18. Describe the significance of summer vacation as it relates to different groups of students.
19. Gladwell states, "success follows a course." How does this quote apply to Marita? How does this apply to you?

Epilogue: "A Jamaican Story"

20. What does Gladwell mean when he states, "The outlier in the end is not an outlier at all."?
21. Explain what Gladwell means when he states, "That is the story of my mother's path to success- and it isn't true."

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Task 2:

TED Talks

Go to ted.com and watch:

1) The Art of Misdirection—Apollo Robbins
2) Making Stress Your Friend—Kelly McGonigal
3) Everything You Think You Know About Addiction is Wrong—Johann Hari
4) Our Lonely Society Makes It Hard to Come Home From War—Sebastian Junger
5) One TED Talk of your choice—**CANNOT** BE "INSIDE THE MIND OF A MASTER PROCRASTINATOR OR "HOW TO SPEAK SO PEOPLE WANT TO LISTEN" AS WE WATCH THESE IN CLASS

For EACH Ted Talk, type ONE PAGE in which you:

A) Identify the speaker and explain why they are qualified to give the talk.
B) Summarize the main idea of the speech and outline the key points of the talk.
C) Rate this speaker's presentation skills on a scale from 1-10 and justify your answer by explaining what specific techniques they used to engage the audience.
D) **ALL RESPONSES MUST BE TIMES NEW ROMAN, DOUBLE SPACED, SIZE-12 FONT.**
E) For an example of what your TED talk responses should look like, please see the following page.

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I am looking forward to a great year with you all!

You may feel free to reach out with questions over summer, but remember, because of the independent nature of this class, one of the purposes of this assignment is for you to problem solve independent of your teachers.

Mr. Panus

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In the space below and on the next page, please see exemplar responses for task 1 and 2. Please refer to these exemplars as expectations of length, depth, and detail of your responses.

Task 1:

1. The Roseto Mystery was about the small town of Roseto in Pennsylvania, whose inhabitants originated in Italy. The mystery was how the small town of Roseto managed to avoid most deadly diseases, like heart attack, and simply die of old age, despite being slightly overweight. After looking into their diet, exercise, location, and genes they found no reason to explain their longevity. But after looking into their cultural background, researchers found that Rosetans were living in such a small, lively, and tightly knit community that they were all peaceful, content, and supported, which resulted in their low crime, drug use, and mortality rates. In conclusion, they decided that if you can have strong connections within your community and within your family then you will be happier and live a longer life. The overarching idea that Gladwell is establishing in this introduction is that to identify what makes outliers in society, you need to look at the bigger picture and not just individuals.

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Task 2:

"How to Speak so that People Want to Listen," by Julian Treasure

In today's digital age, where attention spans are shorter than ever, the ability to communicate effectively has become a critical skill. Julian Treasure, a renowned sound expert, addresses this challenge in his TED Talk titled "How to Speak So That People Want to Listen." Through a captivating presentation, Treasure shares valuable insights on how to make our words resonate and capture our audience's attention. Julian Treasure's qualifications are rooted in his deep understanding of sound, communication, and human psychology. As a seasoned speaker and trainer, he has helped countless individuals improve their speaking skills, voice quality, and overall communication effectiveness. His expertise extends beyond mere rhetoric; it delves into the nuances of sound, tone, and authenticity.

Treasure begins by highlighting the pitfalls that hinder effective communication. These "Seven Deadly Sins of Speaking" serve as cautionary reminders for anyone seeking to engage an audience. Spreading rumors or negative information damages trust. Being overly critical alienates listeners. Pervasive negativity repels attention. Excessive complaining drains energy. Shifting blame undermines credibility. Hyperbole erodes trust. Rigid opinions shut down dialogue. Additionally, Treasure introduces the "HAIL" framework which encapsulates the four essential qualities of powerful communication. Honesty involves authenticity and truthfulness, building trust with the audience. Genuine communication connects on a deeper level. Aligning words with values demonstrates integrity (Integrity). Not romantic love, but empathy and compassion, create lasting impact. These qualities, along with developing your "vocal toolbox," form the foundation for effective communication.

On a scale of 1 to 10, I rate Julian Treasure's presentation skills a solid 9. His engagement techniques, including vocal exercises and empathy, resonate with listeners. The talk follows a clear structure, enhancing clarity. While Treasure's delivery is excellent, a touch more enthusiasm could elevate his score to a perfect 10.