

**Advanced Placement Language and Composition (11th Grade)**

**Summer Reading Assignments**

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**1. Read *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell**

*Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell asks the question: what makes high-achievers different?

This book is stacked with real life examples to prove his thesis: success takes a little bit of luck and a lot of practice. Gladwell's argument is well developed and interesting. Since argument is the major focus of AP English Language and Composition, analysis and discussion of Gladwell's work is a good place for us to begin.

As you read, concentrate on Gladwell's unique definition of success. Notice how he defines and presents this abstract concept through his creative chapter titles, research, personal stories, and observations. You'll be surprised about how much you will learn from this original "take" on success.

**2. Provide a typed response to the following questions:**

**The typed responses and class discussions will count as a major grade.**

Please include the questions and your responses. Questions should be answered in complete sentences. Points will be taken off for incomplete sentences and/ or substandard English (incorrect spelling, capitalization errors, and punctuation). \*\*Consider these questions as you read. Take notes in a notebook or on separate sheets of paper. Let these questions direct your annotations.

**Introduction "The Roseto Mystery":**

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

**Chapter One "The Matthew Effect":**

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

**Chapter Two "The 10,000-Hour Rule":**

1. Explain the 10,000-Hour Rule.
2. 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 Joel, The Beatles, and Bill Gates.

**Chapter Three "The Trouble with Geniuses, Part 1":**

1. Describe the difference between "divergence testing" and "convergence testing." Is one more significant than the other?
2. 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 Four "The Trouble with Geniuses, Part 2":**

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

**Chapter Five "The Three Lessons of Joe Flom":**

1. Explain Gladwell's statement as it relates to Joe Flom: "Buried in that setback was a golden opportunity."
2. 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.
3. What point is Gladwell making about the Jewish immigrants and their descendents?

### **Chapter Six “Harlan, Kentucky”:**

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

### **Chapter Seven “The Ethnic Theory of Plane Crashes”:**

1. Describe the significance of the “willingness to change” as it relates to Korean Air.
2. What is Gladwell explaining about the importance of communication?

### **Chapter Eight “Rice Paddies and Math Tests”:**

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

### **Chapter Nine “Marita’s Bargain”:**

1. Describe the significance of summer vacation as it relates to different groups of students. Why is this significant?
2. Gladwell states “success follows a predictable course.” How does this quote apply to Marita? How does this apply to you?

### **Epilogue “A Jamaican Story”:**

1. What does Gladwell mean when he states, “The outlier in the end is not an outlier at all.”
2. Explain what Gladwell means when he states, “That is the story of my mother’s path to success – and it isn’t true.”

**3. Compose a rough draft of an essay to the following prompt. Be sure to include a parenthetical citation (author’s last name and page number) for any cited evidence. We will discuss and review the rough drafts before final submission.**

**The rough draft will count as a minor grade, and the final draft will count as a major grade.**

Sustainability will be a common theme at Gulf Shores High School. *Sustainability* can be defined as “the quality of being able to continue over a period of time.” As you read the novel, consider what Gladwell is suggesting about sustainability as it relates to success. Consider the environmental and cultural factors. What does he suggest about sustainability in the introduction? In the “10,000-Hour Rule”? “The Three Lessons of Joe Flom”? “Rice Paddies and Math Tests”? Almost every chapter can be tied to a form (cultural, ethnicity, environmental) of sustainability. Choose three-four examples of how success is tied to sustainability in the book. Compose a body paragraph with evidence from the text for each example. You should have an introductory paragraph, at least three body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph.

**4. Reading quizzes may be given the first full week of class.**