

Welcome to AP Language and Composition!

The upcoming year in English class is sure to be an engaging journey. You will read fascinating (mainly nonfiction) texts that will expand your mind, and you will tackle writing assignments that will challenge you to write more clearly and analytically. The end goal is for you to become better readers, writers, and thinkers as well as more fully engaged citizens of the world.

In order to prepare you for the rigor of this course, and so that we can “hit the ground running” on the first day of class, you have three summer assignments. Please complete all three by the first week of class. (The three assignments are below.)

Words of Advice: Please chunk the assignments listed here. In other words, complete them a bit at a time over the course of a few weeks. Procrastinating and waiting to the very end of the summer to complete the assignments will only result in anxiety and mediocre work. So please be sure to get started early and complete the work in manageable increments. Perhaps create a schedule or “to do” list to help you organize your time and get everything done in a timely manner.

AP Language and Composition – Summer Reading Assignment

Assignment #1: Vocabulary

Keep a hand-written word journal on the following high-frequency words in the AP Classroom.

Your journal must include the following for each word:

- A thorough definition (merriam-webster.com)
- The part of speech (noun, verb, or adjective, etc.)
- An original sentence that demonstrates your understanding of the definition (The sentence must be written by you.)

Words:

commonality	lucid	succinct
consensus	magnanimous	tenuous
contradict	permeate	trivial
correlate	pivotal	vehemently
dissent	refute	viable
extol	rescind	vilify
judicious	solidarity	

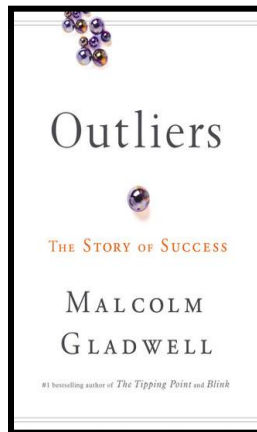
Assignment #2: 10 New Articles

Read 10 News articles from 2024 that appeared in reliable news sources (such as BBC.com, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Times*, *Time Magazine*, etc.).

For each article:

- Identify the title of the article, the periodical from which it was taken, and the date it was published
- identify which category the news article best fits in:
 - a) government/politics/law
 - b) science.
 - c) medical/health.
 - d) environment
 - e) entertainment (books, movies, celebrities, sports, vacations).
 - f) crime.
 - g) society.
 - h) money/finance/economy
- write a brief summary of the article—be as specific as possible. How would you answer the question: What is the article about? What are the main arguments or points?
- Discuss your reaction to some aspect of the article—why is it interesting? How does it connect to something you’ve read or already know? What does it make you wonder about?
- Discuss why the article is important (i.e., what does it highlight about life, human nature, or whatever topic it relates to—such as the country, the world, the justice system, the environment, etc.)?

Assignment #3: Purchase, read, and annotate *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell



In this stunning book, Malcolm Gladwell takes us on an intellectual journey through the world of "outliers"—the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. He asks the question: what makes high-achievers different? —Goodreads

Not only is this an illuminating book, it also will introduce you to concepts that are at the center of the AP Language and Composition class: persuasion, expository writing, and narration. It will also help you focus on important concepts such as writer's craft and how a writer uses word choice, syntax, and other elements to create meaning.

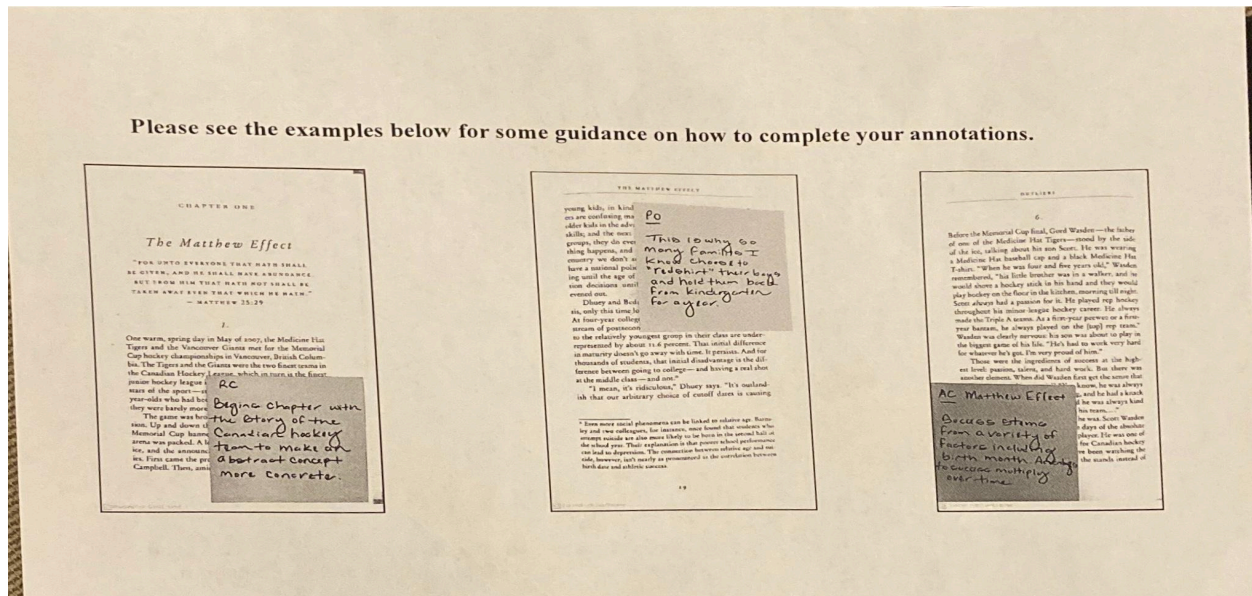
Your Assignment: Purchase a paperback copy of the book (ISBN: 978-0-316-01793-0) as well as a pack or two of Post-it notes.

As you read the book (including the Introduction and the epilogue) comment on the following:

- **RC–Rhetorical Choice:** How does the writer's use of word choice, questions, stories, sentence structure, imagery, figurative language, or other elements help to strengthen the author's claim in that chapter?
- **PO–Personal Observations:** What connections can you make? What observations do you have? What is stimulating your thinking and how/why?
- **AC–Author's Claim:** Place this sticky note at the end of each chapter: What is the author's major claim about success in that chapter?

Your book should include many annotations and comments in response to the questions above. Label them with the appropriate code provided above (RC, PO, AC). You may want to use color-coded sticky notes. Remember, the assignment is not just to label a part of the text, you must comment on these sections and explain your thoughts in the margin/on the sticky note.

Here are examples:



From Beth Hall, "AP Lang and Composition Summer Reading."

***ALL WORK, FOR ALL 3 ASSIGNMENTS, IS DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS.**