

**AP Language and Composition Summer Work 2023**  
**Mountain Ridge High School**

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***The Outliers* Reading Assignment #1 (10 Quotes w/ analysis)**

Submission is due **Monday August 3**, 2023 at beginning of class.

Any late submissions will receive a 50% penalty (after 5 days / not accepted).

*All Summer work is submitted as a **hard copy** – submitted in the designated class bin.*

***The Outliers* Reading Assignment #2 (Essay)**

Submission is due **Friday August 4**, at the beginning of class.

Any late submissions will receive a 50% penalty (after 5 days / not accepted).

*All Summer work is submitted as a **hard copy** – submitted in the designated class bin.*

**Summer Reading Novel: *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell**

**Description:**

A #1 National Bestseller. "Explosively entertaining...*Outliers* is riveting science, self-help, and entertainment, all in one book." -Entertainment Weekly

In understanding successful people, we have come to focus far too much on their intelligence and ambition and personality traits. Instead, Malcolm Gladwell argues in *Outliers*, we should look at the world that surrounds the successful – their culture, their family, their generation, and the idiosyncratic experiences of their upbringing. Along the way, Gladwell reveals what the Beatles and Bill Gates have in common, the reason you've never heard of the smartest man in the world, why almost no star hockey players are born in the fall, and why, when it comes to plane crashes, where the pilots are born matters as much as how well they are trained.

*Lives of outliers – people whose achievements fall outside normal experience – follow a peculiar and unexpected logic, and in uncovering that logic, Gladwell presents a fascinating and provocative blueprint for making the most of human potential.*

\*Please check-out or purchase a hard copy of *Outliers* and understand that you will need to bring your copy of the book with you to class each day during the first 2-3 weeks of the course.

**Reading Assignment:**

1. Identify and correctly cite 10 significant quotes from the novel. Explain their significance using 4-5 sentences each. Your explanation of the quote should be insightful, highlight your interpretations and perceptions of the novel and demonstrate higher-level thinking. **(50 Points)**
2. In a well-written, academic response that is 400-500 words in length, **challenge, defend** or **qualify** the claims made by Gladwell in his book. Use **appropriate evidence** from your reading, experience or observations to support your argument. **\*\*You should only have direct quotes from Gladwell's novel [3 required]. (100 Points)**
  - ✓ Type in one correctly formatted MLA document and submit a **hard copy**.
  - ✓ Your response will be graded using the AP Writing Rubric and this assignment is worth 100 points.

**Length Requirements and Limitations:**

- ✓ Your essay should be between 400 & 500 words in length, excluding the title and MLA header and heading information.
- ✓ Essays that fail to follow the length guidelines will lose points. Essays under 400 words or over 500 words will lose points.
- ✓ The word limit is non-negotiable. It is imperative that you begin practicing concise, clear, well-articulated arguments.

**Format & Citations:**

- ✓ Your academic essay should include an introduction with thesis, two to three body paragraphs (Line of Reasoning) of appropriate length and a concluding paragraph (conclusion).
- ✓ All essays should follow MLA format (double-spaced, size 12-font, 4-part heading, etc.) and submitted essays should be free of grammatical errors.
- ✓ All quoted material embedded in your essay should be cited in the paper and a works cited entry for *Outliers* should be included on its own page.
- ✓ You should not have any additional sources.

**Rubric:**

- ✓ Your essay will be graded using the AP Lang Argument Rubric (can be found at AP Central/College Board/AP English).