



BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL

Summer Reading 2025

Course: AP Language & Composition

Contacts: Ms. Marx (jmarx@bishopchatard.org) and Ms. Schafer (bschafer@bishopchatard.org)

One of the key elements of AP Language & Composition is being knowledgeable about the world around you AND being able to form a well-educated position about a topic. This assignment is intended to give you a foundation about themes that we will discuss throughout the year. The goal is not just for you to read a nonfiction text but to increase your rhetorical analysis skills, expand your vocabulary, and provide background information on the topics we will cover throughout the school year.

Summer Requirements

- Read *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell.
- Submit the written assignment on Day 1 of class.
- Participate in a Socratic Seminar and group discussion during the first few days of class.

The Assignment

- Do a close reading of the text. Although you do not need to annotate the text, please read closely so that you understand Gladwell's main points as well as the evidence he presents. Look up words that are unfamiliar; reread passages that are unclear; pause at times to reflect on what he is saying.
- As you read, concentrate on Gladwell's unique definition of success. Notice how he defines and presents this abstract concept through his chapter titles, research, personal stories, and observations. You will be surprised how much you will learn from this original perspective on success.
- For each chapter you will use the following format:
 1. Label each chapter.
 2. In 3-4 sentences you will write the main claim of that chapter. What point is Gladwell trying to make? What is his argument?
 3. After you have decided on Gladwell's main claim, list a minimum of 3 pieces of evidence that support his main claim. That support may be a quote, a story he has told, research, etc. Each piece of evidence should be a "brief" summary (1-2 sentences at most).
 4. Discuss any fallacies you see in his evidence. In other words, are there any problems with the evidence? Are there areas that you don't quite think are true, or do you personally know instances that disprove Gladwell's main claim?

5. Finally, what is your opinion of the chapter? What did you find interesting? What did you learn? If you found a chapter uninteresting or confusing, say so and discuss why.

Outliers has 9 chapters, an Introduction, and an Epilogue, so you should have a total of 11 entries, with each entry having the 5 parts outlined above. You may either type your responses into a Google doc that you will submit on the first day of school, or you may handwrite your answers into a notebook that I will collect.