



Summer Reading – *The Outliers*

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 to not just read a nonfiction text, but to increase your rhetorical analysis skills, expand your vocabulary, and provide background information on the themes that will be covered throughout the school year.

Summer Requirements

- Read and annotate / take notes Malcolm Gladwell's *The Outliers*
 - eBook or hard copy is acceptable
- Discuss through Socratic Seminars

The Assignment

- Do a close reading of the text. A close reading means to make notes in the margins or on a separate sheet of paper, annotate the rhetorical devices used (ethos, pathos, logos, syntax, diction, figurative language, etc), underline confusing and/or favorite passages, highlight interesting information, comment on significant language, and identify the purpose of each chapter & the overall text.
- Identify the purpose of each chapter, the tone (see attached list of tone words), and the main mode of discourse (see attached PDF) with textual evidence for support. You will then describe how Gladwell's mode of discourse will help him to achieve his purpose in the chapter. Please keep all of this information in one document on paper or electronically. It will be collected on the first day of school
- After you read, examine the evolution of Gladwell's unique definition of success. Notice how he uniquely 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 perspective on success. Please include this information with your other notes on purpose, tone, & modes of discourse.
- When you return, we will have several Socratic Seminars discussing the text, analyzing the questions, and the style of writing.