

Montverde Academy Upper School English

2021-22 AP Language Summer Reading Requirements

Students who will be enrolled in AP English Language and Composition DO have a summer reading assignment. Those assignments and the accompanying assessments are listed below. The ISBN numbers provided are for reference. Students may purchase e-books if they prefer.

If you should have questions regarding the summer reading assignments, please contact:

AP English Language and Composition— Mr. Jonathan Stalma (jonathan.stalma@montverde.org)

AP English Language and Composition (The TWO listed nonfiction text selections below WILL BE REQUIRED as the summer reading to be read prior to the beginning of school.)

- *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell (**Publisher:** Back Bay Books (June 1, 2011) **ISBN-10:** 0316017930 OR **ISBN-13:** 978-0316017930)
- *Factfulness: The Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World* by Hans Rosling (**Publisher:** Flatiron Books (April 3, 2018) **ISBN-10:** 1250107814 OR **ISBN-13:** 978-1250107817)

I. Introductory Assignment for *Outliers*:

DIALECTICAL JOURNAL ENTRIES (50 points):

For each chapter, choose one textual moment or short passage that you find significant. Maybe this moment helps to build the central argument that Gladwell is making in that chapter; maybe it makes an especially surprising or important point; maybe it gives us a good example of a strategy Gladwell uses to get his point across.

Each dialectical journal entry should include three columns:

- **Quote:** In the first column, record the textual moment / passage and cite the page number.
- **Explanation:** In the second column, explain the context and content of the passage. What is Gladwell literally saying here? What is he talking about? What's going on in the book around this moment?
- **Analysis:** In the third column, analyze what Gladwell is doing for his readers at this moment. You can discuss how this textual moment connects to the larger message of the chapter or the book as a whole. You can discuss what you notice about Gladwell's strategies and the elements of effective writing (discuss diction, tone, use of figurative language, etc.). It can also be a good idea to analyze how Gladwell intends this textual moment to affect his reader – what is he trying to make us see or question or understand here?

Example of an Awesome Dialectical Journal: (Credit to Acelynn Barefoot)

"Because we so profoundly personalize success, we miss opportunities to lift others onto the top rung. We make rules that frustrate achievement. We prematurely write off people as failures. We are too much in awe of those who succeed and far too dismissive of those who fail. And, most of all, we become much too passive. We overlook just how large a role we all play - and by 'we' I mean society - in determining who makes it and who doesn't." (32-33)	After carefully presenting the argument that success is based on selection, streaming, and differentiated experience, Gladwell continues to express to readers that this selection automatically ignores many talented people who might not be fit enough for the selection but with the same experience could grow and develop skills equal to those originally picked by the selection. Gladwell claims that if more hockey leagues were set up based on months of birth, by the time the Olympics came around, Canada would have at least double the amount of well-trained athletes to select for the team.	Gladwell criticizes society for having a system that automatically disregards people before they have a chance at life. However he doesn't stop there - Gladwell wisely continues on to propose a solution: make more leagues for a smaller age range, make more kindergarten classes for a smaller age range. By doing this Gladwell gains the trust and respect of his readers. Calling anyone out for their faults usually makes them defensive, but in offering a realistic solution to this societal problem, Gladwell is attempting to motivate his audiences to work towards change.
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II: **Argumentative Essay for *Outliers***: Argumentative writing requires you to adopt a position in response to a topic or claim and support your position with evidence or reasoning. It is a key component of AP Lang & Comp as well as college courses.

"Success comes down to hard work plus passion, over time."

- Stanley Tang

Stanley Tang, a tech guru and entrepreneur who grew up in Hong Kong, became a bestselling author at 16 with his book *eMillions*, a collection of interviews with successful internet millionaires. Now 22, he recently pulled in \$57 million in investments for his online startup business, DoorDash.

PROMPT: Consider the above quotation about success. Then, write an essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies Tang's assertion, using *Outliers* as evidence. Your essay should include:

- An introductory paragraph that...
 - Clearly introduces the topic and the claim you are responding to
 - Includes a thesis statement that mentions Gladwell's book and makes your position on Tang's claim clear (*Ex: In *Outliers*, Malcolm Gladwell demonstrates that success...*)
- 2 (or 3) body paragraphs that use **specific evidence** (i.e. QUOTES) from *Outliers* to support your position
- A conclusion that brings your essay back to your thesis
- Total length: 5-6 paragraphs

Tips:

- Avoid using 1st person language (I, me, my). Instead, state your claims as fact and continually refer to Gladwell's arguments and evidence.
- It is better to choose a couple of strong examples and thoroughly explain how they support your point than to just list off one example after another.
- Possible organizing strategies: each body paragraph can focus on a different major example, or each body paragraph could focus on a different factor that contributes to success.
- Use short quotes surrounded by your own context, explanation, and reasoning. The focus of your writing should not be on your quotes, but rather your ability to explain HOW those quotes prove your thesis
- For additional support, visit the Purdue Owl Online Writing Lab at:
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/685/05/>

A Note on Plagiarism:

The ideas in your essay should be completely your own. Any essay found to receive assistance from the internet (including quotes/explanations pulled from another cite) OR a peer will receive a 0.

This essay is due on the first day of class (printed hard copy + electronic submission—August 2021.)

III. ***Factfulness* Dialectical Journal**: Apply the same steps and procedures for the *Outliers* Dialectical Journal to your reading of Rosling's *Factfulness*. Keep in mind that this text is more statistical and evidence-based, and this may influence your understanding of the concepts discussed in each selection, but feel free to document questions or concerns you have with the chapters to bring into a discussion with classmates.

NOTE: You are welcome to put all dialectical journal entries for *Outliers* & *Factfulness* together in the same document. Please have the *Outliers* Argumentative Essay on a second document. (Microsoft Word is **REQUIRED** for the Argumentative essay. If you have access to your iPad over the summer, Notability will work best for the journals for updating and editing.)

If you have time, get to know Gladwell from this TedTalk on *choice, happiness, & spaghetti sauce!*
https://www.ted.com/talks/malcolm_gladwell_choice_happiness_and_spaghetti_sauce?language=en