

Montverde Academy Upper School English

2024-25 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. Physical, softcover books are strongly recommended, but students may purchase e-books if they prefer (audio books are not permitted.)

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 text selections below WILL BE REQUIRED as the summer reading to be read for the beginning of school. A third text: *True or False: A CIA Analyst's Guide to Spotting Fake News* by Cindy L. Otis (published July 28th, 2020; ISBN-10: 1250239494 OR ISBN-13 978-1250239495) will also need to be purchased as it will be read during the first semester.)

- *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell (Publisher: Back Bay Books January 7th, 2002; ISBN-10: 0316346624 OR ISBN-13: 978-0316346627)
- *Factfulness: The Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World* by Hans Rosling (Publisher: Flatiron Books, reprint edition (April 7, 2020) ISBN-10: 1250123828 OR ISBN-13: 978-1250123824)

I. Assignment #1: Argument Essay

Consider Gladwell's *The Tipping Point* in the context of our current world and its possible commentary on what living in 2024 means. Then, using ONE of the three rules of *The Tipping Point* – the Law of the Few, the Stickiness Factor, or the Power of Context – create a fully-developed and well-reasoned argument that explains a contemporary phenomenon or epidemic. The more knowledgeable you are of the subject, the more convincing and thoughtful the argument.

Format and Length Requirements:

Your essay must be typed on a Microsoft Word document using a 12-point Times New Roman or Garamond font and must strictly conform to the conventions of standard written English. Your essay must also conform to the format requirements of the most current edition of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. For help with MLA's formatting requirements, I recommend consulting Purdue's Online Writing Lab.

Not counting your work-cited page, your essay should be a minimum of three pages (approximately 1,250 words), but no more than five pages (approximately 2,000 words).

This essay is due on Friday of the first week of class—August 16th, 2024.

II. Assignment #2: Factfulness Dialectical Journal

For the 11 chapters of the book, please keep a Dialectical Journal of important quotes or passages as you read. One specific quote or passage is required for each chapter (minimum 11), but more can be recorded for recall, class discussion and use on the in-class writing component. 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 theories/concepts/chapters to bring into a discussion with classmates. In other words, are there any areas you would like to discuss more deeply or concepts/theories you would challenge?

Format and Length Requirements:

Typed or handwritten notes can be formatted with a table format as follows:

Chapter # and Title	Page #	Direct quote:	Analysis, significance, application (“a-ha moment...this reminded me/makes me think of...), or challenge of quote/concept:

III. **Critical Writing Responses (upon return to school):**

During the first two-three weeks of school, students should expect to take part in a whole-class discussion of the two books and write an in-class essay and short responses on how Gladwell’s *The Tipping Point* can be related to other contemporary issues, as well as discussion on Rosling’s *Factfulness*.