

AP Language and Composition Summer Reading Assignment

Students enrolled in AP Language and Composition must read the following two works before the first day of class:

Jay Heinrichs, *Thank You for Arguing*
Malcolm Gladwell, *Outliers*

About the books...

Jay Heinrichs, *Thank You for Arguing*

Thank You for Arguing covers the core rhetorical teachings of Aristotle and Cicero, but Heinrichs does it entirely using modern examples, drawing on political, marketing, workplace, and cultural references, as well as his own family arguments. One paragraph discusses Socrates; the next discusses Sherlock Holmes. The balance between formal lessons and practical examples makes the book highly valuable and applicable to everyday speaking and writing. Among other things, you will learn:

- a deeper understanding of ethos, pathos, and logos,
- many figures of speech,
- how to recognize strong and weak logical arguments,
- how to recognize (and use, or defend against) persuasive techniques,
- how to construct a persuasive language in speaking and writing.

Though you are required to read the entire book, you will turn in handwritten notes only on the following chapters (chapter numbers will vary among editions of the book):

Set Your Goals
Soften Them Up
Get Them to Like You
Control the Mood
Control the Argument
Spot Fallacies
Give a Persuasive Talk
Appendix: The Tools

For each required chapter (noted on page 1), you should have at least a page of notes with the following elements:

- Summary of the chapter
- Rhetorical devices
- Definitions
- One specific example in which Heinrichs puts his theory into practice

After reading *Thank You for Arguing*, you are required to choose one speech from American Rhetoric's "Top 100 American Speeches" list. Click on the following link, <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/top100speechesall.html>, choose a speech, print it out, and find an audio version of the speech (you can find most of these on YouTube). **In the first week of class, you will write an analysis essay that encompasses not only the written prose and various rhetorical strategies that Heinrichs covers, but also the social and historical context, the delivery, the rhetorical situation, and a compelling conclusion that addresses the "so what" factor of the speech.**

Malcolm Gladwell, *Outliers*

What is an “outlier”?

Outlier is a scientific term to describe things or phenomena that lie outside normal experience. In the summer, in Paris, we expect most days to be somewhere between warm and very hot. But imagine if you had a day in the middle of August where the temperature fell below freezing. That day would be an outlier. And while we have a very good understanding of why summer days in Paris are warm or hot, we know a good deal less about why a summer day in Paris might be freezing cold. In this book I’m interested in people who are outliers-- in men and women who, for one reason or another, are so accomplished and so extraordinary and so outside of ordinary experience that they are as puzzling to the rest of us as a cold day in August. ~Malcolm Gladwell

Here is a brief review found on Amazon.com:

...Malcolm Gladwell poses a ... provocative question in *Outliers*: why do some people succeed, living remarkably productive and impactful lives, while so many more never reach their potential? Challenging our cherished belief of the “self-made man,” he makes the democratic assertion that superstars don’t arise out of nowhere, propelled by genius and talent: “They are invariably the beneficiaries of hidden advantages and extraordinary opportunities and cultural legacies that allow them to learn and work hard and make sense of the world in ways others cannot.”

Examining the lives of outliers from Mozart to Bill Gates, he builds a convincing case for how successful people rise on a tide of advantages, “some deserved, some not, some earned, some just plain lucky.” ~Mari Malcolm

Your Task:

1. Do a close reading of the text. A close reading means to keep a pen or pencil in your hand as you read and make notes in the margins, underline confusing and/or favorite passages, highlight interesting information, and comment on significant language.
2. As you read, concentrate on Gladwell’s 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 interpretation or “take” on success.
3. Use the attached questions to guide you through the entire work, and be prepared to discuss each question in a Socratic forum in the first weeks of class.
4. Identify 20 new vocabulary terms (words that you discover as you read that are new or particularly interesting to you). For each word:
 - Write the sentence, complete with page number citation
 - Define the word. Some words have multiple definitions. Be sure to write down the definition that applies to the sentence you have selected, that is, what the word means in this particular context.

In the first week of class, you will write an argumentative essay in response to your reading. Your essay will be used to assess your ability to synthesize reading material. Ongoing reference and instruction will be tied to both of your summer readings texts.

Guided Reading Questions for *Outliers*

Please type all responses using Times New Roman 12-point font, double spaced. You will submit your completed reading guide on the first day of class.

Introduction: “The Roseto Mystery”

- What is the Roseto Mystery? What overarching idea is Gladwell establishing in his introduction?

Chapter One: “The Matthew Effect”

- Explain the author’s viewpoint regarding “The Story of Success.” Are personal qualities the sole reason one becomes an outlier?
- What is the consequence of “prematurely writing people off as failures”?

Chapter Two: “The 10,000-Hour Rule”

- Explain the 10,000-Hour Rule
- Consider the following: “Practice isn’t the thing you do once you’re good. It’s the thing you do that makes you good.” Explain how this philosophy was at work for Bill Joy, The Beatles, and Bill Gates.

Chapter Three: “The Trouble with Geniuses: Part 1”

- Describe the difference between ‘divergence testing’ and ‘convergence testing.’ Is one more significant than the other?
- Gladwell states that communities and companies in American society “are convinced that those at the very top of the IQ scale have the greatest potential.” After reading the chapter, explain why you either agree or disagree with this statement.

Chapter Four: “The Trouble with Geniuses: Part 2”

- Compare and contrast Langan and Oppenheimer.
- What is the difference between “concerted cultivation” and “accomplishment of natural growth”?

Chapter Five: “The Three Lessons of Joe Flom”

- Explain Gladwell’s statement as it relates to Joe Flom: “Buried in that setback was a golden opportunity.”
- Consider the following quote: “Hard work is a prison sentence only if it does not have meaning.” Explain how this quote relates to the chapter.

Chapter Six: “Harlan, Kentucky”

- Describe the “culture of honor” that exists in the Appalachian Mountains.
- What are the “cultural legacies” as described in this chapter? Why are they significant to understand when dealing with people?

Chapter Seven: “The Ethnic Theory of Plane Crashes”

- Describe the significance of the “willingness to change” as it relates to Korean Air.
- What is Gladwell explaining about the importance of communication?

Chapter Eight: “Rice Paddies and Math Tests”

- After reading this section of the book, have your opinions changed about math classes and math ability? Explain why or why not.
- Describe the connection between the “10,000-Hour Rule” and the wet-rice farmers in Asia.

Chapter Nine: “Marita’s Bargain”

- Describe the significance of summer vacation as it relates to different groups of students. Why is this significant?
- Gladwell states “success follows a predictable course.” How does this quote apply to Marita? How does this apply to you?

Epilogue: “A Jamaican Story”

- What does Gladwell mean when he states “The outlier in the end is not an outlier at all.”
- Explain what Gladwell means when he states, “That is the story of my mother’s path to success--and it isn’t true.”

Required PRINTED materials due the first day of class:

1. Handwritten notes on the chapters in *Thank you for Arguing*.
2. Printed and annotated speech from American Rhetoric’s Top 100 website. You will print the speech and will annotate (annotations do not need to be in complete sentences; see the example):
 - each clear section of the speech with a summary of main ideas presented
 - how those ideas fit into the speaker’s overall purpose and into the historical context (you will need to research the historical context of the speech. What precipitated the ideas delivered in the speech? Think about the social, political, environmental, or technological events happening in the world at the time of the speech)
 - rhetorical strategies as mentioned in the selected chapters from the text
 - the purpose and effect of the rhetorical strategies you have identified
3. Overall Purpose Statement: After you have read and annotated the speech, listened to the delivery via the audio version, and researched the historical context, consider the primary purpose of the speech. Write the purpose at the top of your annotated speech in a cogent claim statement.
4. Your completed reading guide and vocabulary terms for *Outliers*.

If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Evans or Mrs. Lewis:

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