

AP Language & Composition – 3316/3317
Summer Reading Assignment

1. Read and Annotate Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers*.

1. Highlight helpful or important passages and in the margins, on a separate piece of paper, or on sticky notes, make note of why you felt you needed to highlight that text or how you reacted to it.

2. Answer the guided reading questions for the following sections on a separate sheet of paper:

Introduction "The Roseto Mystery"

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

Chapter One "The Matthew Effect"

2. Explain the author's viewpoint regarding "The Story of Success." Are personal qualities the sole reason one becomes an outlier?
3. What is the consequence of "prematurely writing people off as failures"?

Chapter Two "The 10,000-Hour Rule"

4. Explain the 10,000-Hour Rule.
5. 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"

6. Describe the difference between 'divergence testing' and 'convergence testing'. Is one more significant than the other?
7. 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"

8. Compare and contrast Langan and Oppenheimer.
9. What is the difference between "concerted cultivation" and "accomplishment of natural growth"?

Chapter Five “The Three Lessons of Joe Flom”

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

Chapter Six “Harlan, Kentucky”

12. Describe the “culture of honor” that exists in the Appalachian Mountains.
13. 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”

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

Chapter Eight “Rice Paddies and Math Tests”

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

Chapter Nine “Marita’s Bargain”

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

Epilogue “A Jamacain Story”

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