

**Advanced Placement English Language and Composition
2026 Summer Assignment**

Reading: *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell

Directions:

By signing up for Advanced Placement English Language, you have decided to take a very challenging course, the focus of which is the analysis and writing of non-fiction prose. To begin your work with non-fiction, you need to learn what to look for and analyze in your reading. We will be engaging in what is known as RHETORICAL ANALYSIS. For now, all you need to know about rhetorical analysis is that these are the things you should look for in your reading:

Audience:	The author's intended target. To whom is he or she directly speaking? How do you know? Give evidence! (Please note: This must be very specific and should be based on context clues.) An author is not simply writing to "the reader." Who does the author expect to read this work? How do you know?
Purpose:	What is the author trying to accomplish in this piece of writing or artwork? Can you identify his or her core arguments? Again, give abundant evidence.
Strategies:	What devices, organization, figures of speech, or other elements does the author use to accomplish his or her purpose?

As part of your summer assignment, I would like you to keep a reading journal. As you read each chapter of *Outliers*, type a journal entry of at least 100 words in which you (1) identify a rhetorical choice made in that chapter, (2) discuss why the author made that rhetorical choice, given his audience and purpose, and (3) discuss how that passage connects to the work as a whole.

Counting the introduction & the epilogue, you will have ELEVEN entries by the time you are done with the book. You will submit the journal to Google Classroom on the first day of class.

Also, be prepared to write about *Outliers* in class. In AP Language & Composition, FRQ 3 is an argument essay in which you prove your points by using examples from books, entertainment, news, technology, sports, history, observations, and personal experience. When you write argument essays in AP Lang, you may well find that the examples in *Outliers* are excellent ones to support your reasoning.