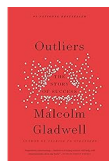
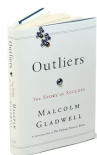


AP Seminar Summer Reading Packet

Summer 2026



OR



Summer Reading Text
Outliers: The Story of Success
by Malcolm Gladwell

Welcome to AP Seminar!

As a rising Honors English II student, welcome to AP Seminar. This course focuses on developing the skills of critical thinking, collaboration, research, argumentation, and effective communication. Throughout the year, you will learn how to:

- analyze complex issues,
- evaluate evidence and perspectives,
- ask meaningful research questions,
- develop strong arguments,
- and communicate ideas clearly.

Your summer reading assignment is designed to begin building those skills before the school year starts.

As you read *Outliers*, think carefully about the author's ideas regarding success, opportunity, culture, education, and achievement. Your goal is not simply to finish the book, but to actively engage with the arguments and evidence presented.

Note: You will need to purchase a copy of this book for annotating and bring it with you to class. We will be using it for the first unit of the year.

Required Assignments - Due the first day of class = Test Grade

1. Active Reading Annotations and Annotation Log
2. Claim + Evidence Tracker
3. Perspective Analysis Organizer
4. Research Question Brainstorm

All work must be **typed** using **MLA** format, including a work cited page and in-text citations. I recommend [Purdue Owl](https://owl.purdue.edu/) for help with formatting and citing

**Templates for Parts 1-3 will be shared with you through your email account, or you can create your own Google Doc and format it as directed below.*

Part 1: Active Reading Annotations

Directions: As you read, actively annotate the text or record notes in the chart below. You must complete at least **10** entries using the template or format below.

Focus on:

- major claims,
- important evidence,
- surprising ideas,
- questions,
- assumptions,
- counterarguments,
- and real-world connections.

Try to include entries that identify:

- Major claims or arguments
- Surprising statistics or evidence
- Questions or confusions
- Assumptions the author makes
- Possible counterarguments
- Connections to society, school, sports, family, or current events
- Examples of bias or perspective
- Moments you agree or disagree with

Annotation Symbols

Symbol	Meaning
★	Important idea
?	Question/confusion
!	Surprising idea
C	Real-world connection
A	Author's claim
E	Evidence
P	Perspective or bias
CA	Counterargument

Annotation Log

Passage / Idea from the Text	Why It Matters / Your Thinking

Part 2: Claim + Evidence Tracker

Directions: Identify important claims the author makes and evaluate the evidence used to support those claims. (Minimum of 5)

Author's Claim	Evidence Used	Is the Evidence Convincing? Why or Why Not?

Part 3: Perspective Analysis Organizer

Directions: AP Seminar emphasizes understanding multiple perspectives. As you read, consider viewpoints that are represented, implied, or missing.

Topic / Issue	Gladwell's Perspective	Alternate Perspective	Missing Voices or Stakeholders
Success			
Education			
Talent			
Opportunity			
Culture			

Reading note: AP Seminar is not about memorizing information. It is about learning how to analyze arguments, evaluate evidence, consider perspectives, and ask meaningful questions. Your annotations should show your thinking process as you engage with the text.

Part 4: Research Question Brainstorm

Directions: Create 5 thoughtful, researchable questions inspired by the book.

Strong AP Seminar questions:

- are debatable,
- involve multiple perspectives,
- and cannot be answered with a simple yes or no.

Example Questions

- To what extent does access to opportunity affect academic achievement?
 - Does deliberate practice matter more than natural talent?
 - How should schools address unequal opportunities among students?
-

First Week Discussion Preparation

Be prepared to discuss the following questions during the first weeks of class:

1. Is success primarily earned or influenced by opportunity?
2. Does society overvalue natural talent?
3. Which argument in the book is strongest?
4. Which argument is weakest?
5. What perspectives are missing from Gladwell's analysis?
6. How should schools respond to unequal opportunities?

Academic Integrity Reminder

All work should reflect your own thinking and effort. Discussion with others is encouraged, but all written responses must be original.

I am looking forward to an exciting year of inquiry, discussion, and academic growth in AP Seminar!

Mrs. Todd (mtodd@faithchristiansc.net)