

AP Seminar Summer Reading Assignment
Instructor: Marcus Figuerola (mfiguerola@dadeschools.net)

Introduction and Purpose

Hello, young people! You are embarking on an amazing learning opportunity, and this assignment should go a long way to introduce to some of the core concepts of this class. Advanced Placement classes are designed to enrich a student's current knowledge base, but they ultimately test a student on their skills and judgment, as well. This class in particular is meant to impart the expertise that will carry you through your future AP courses and beyond. Don't leave this until the last minute! By completing this assignment, you are embarking on a path to success.

Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

Most--if not all--of you are going into the 10th grade. The summer reading assignment for all of 10th grade is *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell. Unlike your peers, you will be examining this book to a much greater degree, in order to determine a few key concepts.

1. You must determine **at least** three qualities that are necessary to create an outlier. For each quality, you must find a quote from the book detailing the quality. Record the quote and the page number on which it appears in a Word document or on notecards for later use.
2. Keeping the qualities you identified in mind, you must conduct your own research into an individual (not mentioned in the book) whom you feel is an outlier. If you're researching a businessperson, you may want to visit websites such as *Forbes Magazine* (forbes.com), *The Washington Post* (thewashingtonpost.com), or *The New York Times* (nytimes.com). If you were researching a celebrity, maybe *Rolling Stone Magazine* (rollingstone.com) or *Entertainment Weekly* (ew.com) could have information you need. If you're researching an athlete, *Sports Illustrated* (si.com) or ESPN (espn.go.com) might help you. National Public Radio (npr.org) could prove valuable in any of the previous cases. Determine whether or not this individual has met *your* definition of an outlier. If they do, move on to step three; if they don't, you will need to find another outlier.
3. You must create a **three to four minute** multimedia presentation (Powerpoint, Prezi, etc.) that outlines the qualities that you believe create an outlier, and explain how the individual you researched fits the criteria. Multimedia indicates that you will include pictures, videos, and/or songs in your presentation. Include the citations you collected from *Outliers* in your presentation (*perhaps* to help you organize the presentation) and be sure to embed any media in the file itself. Have this file ready to present on the first day of class, either on a flash drive or available online (Google Docs, iCloud, etc.).

Final Notes

The benefits of this course are numerous, and you certainly have the ability to succeed. Good luck, and should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me through e-mail.