

# Arizona College Prep - Erie

## Honors English 10 Summer Reading Assignment

### 2019-2020

Selection: *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell

#### Assignment:

- Students will read and annotate the book.
- Students will answer comprehension questions for each chapter.
- Students will create a rhetorical precis for each chapter.
- Students will write an essay.

#### Specific Instructions:

- MLA formatting
- Responses must include textual support (quotes) and demonstrate critical reading of the text. Be sure you are NOT summarizing the chapters.
- 100-200 words, **each** response (meaning 100-200 words per question asked)
- Upload to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)

### Assignment #1 – Chapter Questions

#### Introduction "The Roseto Mystery"

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

#### Chapter One "The Matthew Effect"

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

#### Chapter Two "The 10,000-Hour Rule"

5. Explain the 10,000-Hour Rule.
6. What is a paradigm? Can your paradigm change? Explain.

#### Chapter Three "The Trouble with Geniuses, Part 1"

7. What is the significance of test scores vs. quality of student? How does this relate to your own test-taking ability?

8. 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”**

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

#### **Chapter Five “The Three Lessons of Joe Flom”**

11. Explain Gladwell’s statement as it relates to Joe Flom: “Buried in that setback was a golden opportunity.”
12. 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”**

13. Describe the “culture of honor” that exists in the Appalachian Mountains.
14. 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”**

15. Describe the significance of the “willingness to change” as it relates to Korean Air.
16. How significant are problem solving skills throughout this chapter? Explain.

#### **Chapter Eight “Rice Paddies and Math Tests”**

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

#### **Chapter Nine “Marita’s Bargain”**

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

#### **Epilogue “A Jamaican Story”**

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

## Assignment #2 – Rhetorical Precis

**Rhetorical Precis:** Create one precis for each chapter including the introduction and epilogue.

Template: <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Ascds%3AUS%3Ad0f65d54-83a0-4fcf-b767-77dca212094b>

## Assignment #3 – Essay

Write an essay that defends or challenges or qualifies Gladwell's assertion that "if you work hard enough and assert yourself, and use your mind and imagination, you can shape the world to your desires" (Gladwell 151).

- Present your ideas clearly and with organization following MLA format.
- Use facts, examples, personal experience, and connections from your reading to support your claim (do you or do not you agree with Gladwell's assertion?).
  - I am challenging you to think deeply about your readings and apply them to a bigger and personal idea.
  - Be sure to make specific connections to Gladwell and any other sources you may include in your argument.

**A range (90-100%):** Essay answers indicate critical and close reading, thoughtful engagement and analysis. Very few if any grammatical or formatting errors are present. Academic voice. All directions followed.

**B range (80-89%):** Essay answers predominately critical and close reading, and mostly thoughtful engagement and analysis. Some, although few, grammatical or formatting errors are present. Academic voice. All directions followed.

**C range (70-79%):** Essay answers indicate some critical and close reading, although understanding of the text may be tangential or superficial. Very few if any grammatical or formatting errors are present. Academic voice. All directions followed.

**D or F (0-69%):** These responses are not acceptable for honors-level work. It is unclear whether the book was read, or understood. Multiple errors in grammar, voice, and formatting may be present.

**Due Date:** Summer read assignment (questions, precis, and essay) is **due to turnitin.com the third week of school on your block day.**

**Questions:** Please email Mrs. Klauer or Ms. Hester during the summer with any questions. Our contact information is located on our webpages.

*\*Keep in mind that teachers are on break. We may or may not be able to respond immediately to emails, but will answer as promptly as time and internet connections allow.*