

AP Language and Composition Summer Assignment

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...

Summer reading for AP Lang is different from the typical summer reading assignment. You WILL read a book and more—all to broaden your knowledge of the world around you can develop and support your own arguments and think critically about the arguments of others.

1. Summer Reading Book: *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell – DUE AUGUST 10

- You will NEED a physical copy of the book as the class will complete Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) from various sections.
- You will complete a rough draft book review of *Outliers* to be used in writing the final draft in class. (directions below)

2. CHORES Assignment - DUE AUGUST 17

- You are to complete a variety of assignments around the acronym CHORES which stands for
C: Current Events
H: History & Art
O: Our Experiences
R: Reading
E: Entertainment
S: Sports & Science
(directions below)

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO...

1. *Outliers: The Story of Success* Rough Draft Book Review Directions – DUE AUGUST 10

- On a separate piece of notebook paper, write the following:
 - 100-150 word SUMMARY of *Outliers* including
 - a brief summary of Malcolm Gladwell's purpose for writing the book
 - the main thesis and supporting details
 - label this paragraph SUMMARY
 - 150-250 word ANALYSIS of *Outliers*
 - discuss the following:
 - Arguments→Were they convincing?
 - Writing style→ See [100 Words to Describe Writing Style](#)
 - Themes→ What bigger ideas did *Outliers* explore?
 - Use quotes and examples to support your analysis.
 - Label this paragraph ANALYSIS
 - 100-150 word EVALUATION of *Outliers*
 - discuss the following:
 - Answer the "SO WHAT?" question→ Why does *Outliers* matter?
 - Did Gladwell achieve his purpose?
 - What were the book's strengths and weaknesses?
 - Who should—or shouldn't read it?
 - Label this paragraph EVALUATION

2. CHORES Assignment Directions – **DUE AUGUST 17**

- Choose at least ONE item from each category below.
 - Don't choose things you've already read, watched, or done.
 - These are meant to fit into your regular summer plans.
 - You can do them with friends or family if you choose.
 - The point is to have and reflect on NEW experiences.
- Then, write a reflection for each category.
- This assignment is due the second week of school.
 - A list of possible documentaries, podcasts, and news outlets is provided below.
 - This list is made up of suggestions and is certainly not comprehensive.
 - I have not vetted all of these sources, so please review them and choose what will be most appropriate for you.
 - Alternatively, you can come up with your own options as long as they fit the criteria for each category.

Category #1

- **C: Current Events**
 - Choose a current event and then do ONE of the following:
 - Watch a film or documentary and write a reflection.
 - Listen to a podcast and write a reflection.
 - Watch a news broadcast and write a reflection .
 - Read a news article and write a reflection.

Category #2

- **H: History & Art**
 - Choose ONE from the following:
 - Visit a history or art museum and write a reflection.
 - Research a historic event that interests you and write a reflection.
 - Watch a film or documentary about an artist or a historical event/topic and write a reflection.

Category #3

- **O: Our Experiences**
 - Write a reflection about ONE of the following:
 - a time that you or someone you know overcame adversity
 - an experience that left an impact on you (how and why)
 - a person who left an impact on you (how and why)

Category #4

- **R: Readings**
 - Choose a novel (fiction or nonfiction), news story, or podcast and write a reflection.

Category #5

- **E: Entertainment/Pop Culture**
 - Choose a topic within entertainment or pop culture.
 - Research it either through a documentary, podcast, news story, or book.
 - Write a reflection.

Category #6

- **S: Science & Sports**
 - Choose a significant scientific discovery.
 - Research it either through a documentary, podcast, news story, or book.
 - Write a reflection.OR
 - Choose a significant sporting event or athlete.
 - Research it either through a documentary, podcast, news story, or book.
 - Write a reflection.

Directions for Writing the Reflections

- Create a Google document: Title it CHORES Reflections.
- Use a 12-point standard font (such as Arial, Times New Roman, or Cambria).
- Double space the document.
- Use a standard MLA heading at the top of the page.
 - Your Name
Mrs. Vanderpool
AP Lang
Date
- On that document, identify the following
 - each chosen source, activity, or topic
 - basic information such as title and author or event, date and location.
- Each reflection should be on its own page.
- For each individual reflection
 - Make a claim about the value of the experience or topic.
 - Was it Entertaining?
 - Informative?
 - Thought-provoking?
 - Did it introduce you to new perspectives?
 - Challenge or change a pre-existing belief?
 - Deepen your understanding of human nature?
 - What makes this topic significant?
 - Support each claim with
 - specific examples
 - vivid details
 - thorough explanations.
 - Each reflection should be ½-1 page each.

I suggest you complete these activities throughout the summer rather than waiting until August. If you have any questions regarding this assignment, do not hesitate to contact me via email at mvanderpool@favikings.org

- **Example Reflection:**

Category 4: Readings : Read an article of your choice from an online or print newspaper magazine.

Article: “Teens on a Year That Changed Everything”

Publisher: New York Times

Publication date: March 7, 2021

Reflection:

Without question, the Covid-19 pandemic left a lasting impact on the world. It changed how we interact with one another, particularly in the classroom. In this article from The New York Times, several teens reflect on the changes they encountered as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. During the pandemic,

many students found themselves isolated from the world around them. One student reflected that “[b]eing in high school in 2020 [was] an experience like no other. It [was] gloomy, lonely, and frustrating” (Schulten). Many students were home all day, alone, without parent supervision and left to their own devices. Students were suddenly entirely responsible for their own learning. Yes, teachers could post work online, but without one-on-one assistance, students who struggled in class prior to school shut-downs suddenly found themselves in an impossible situation. Additionally, some students became responsible for their younger siblings while parents in essential positions continued to work daily. This article highlights the daily struggles of teens who not only became teachers and caretakers, but also missed out on important high school experiences like prom and graduation.

- **Grading:**

- To earn a 90+, complete at least 6 activities and reflections.
- To earn a 80-89, complete at least 5 activities and reflections.
- To earn a 70-79, complete at least 3 activities and reflections.

Please note that the number of activities you choose to complete will earn you a grade within the set range, as indicated above. Where your grade falls within that range will depend on the degree to which your work shows evidence of engagement, critical thinking, thoroughness, and reflection.

Documentaries

Check out the documentaries category on Netflix or even search on YouTube “full length documentaries.” Below is a list of some good ones to check out.

The Social Dilemma

My Octopus Teacher

All In, The Fight for Democracy

Behind the Curve

Chasing Happiness (Jonas Brothers)

13th

Operation Varsity Blues: The College Admissions Scandal

Blackfish

The Mask You Live In

Miss Representation

An Inconvenient Truth

Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Prices

Waiting for Superman

Building the Machine

Man on Wire

Podcasts

Podcasts are great because you can listen to them anywhere and they're free! If there is something that you are interested in there is probably a podcast for you. I will encourage you to not only listen to podcasts that interest you, but to expand your knowledge by choosing a podcast where you have limited knowledge. Below is a list of Podcasts recommended by AP Lang teachers from around the USA.

50 Things That Made the Modern Economy | Economy, Science
99% Invisible | Culture
Armchair Expert with Dax Shephard | Interviews, Various Topics, Being Human
Breakdown | Crime, Law
Ear Hustle | Crime, Prison, Memoir
Every Little Thing | Various
Flash Forward | Science, Culture
Freakonomics | Economics, Money
Fresh Air | Arts
Gastropod | Food
Getting In | Education
History of Philosophy without Any Gaps | Philosophy
How I Built This | Entrepreneurship, Economics
Inside Appalachia | Culture
Intelligence Squared | Debate, Politics, Current Events
Invisibilia | Psychology, Science
Missing Richard Simmons | Mystery, Pop Culture
More Perfect | Supreme Court, Law
Mortified | Memoir, Humor
On the Media | Current Events
On Second Thought with Trevor Noah | Current Events
Philosophize This! | Philosophy
Philosophy Bites | Philosophy
Planet Money | Economics, Money
Pod Save America | Politics
Pop Culture Happy Hour | Culture
Radio Lab | Various
Reply All | Conspiracy
Reveal | Journalism, Media
Revisionist History | Culture, Sociology, Psychology
Sawbones | Medicine, History
Science Friday | Science
Science Versus | Pop Culture, Politics
Serial Podcast | Mystery, Memoir, Crime
Song Exploder | Music, Culture
Story Corps | Culture, Memoir
Stuff You Missed in History Class | History
Stuff You Should Know | Various
Talks with Teachers | Education
Ted Radio Hour | Various
The Allusionist | Language

- The Dinner Party Download* | Food
- The Grift* | Crime, Conn Artists
- The Hidden Brain* | Psychology, Sociology, Culture
- The History Chicks* | History
- The Memory Palace* | History
- The Moth* | Memoir, Various
- The Partially Examined Life* | Philosophy
- The Run Up* | Politics, Election
- The Sustainable Futures Report* | Environment, Science
- The Tobolowsky Files* | Pop Culture, Memoir
- The Way I Heard It* | Mystery
- This American Life* Culture | Current Events
- 30 for 30* | Sports
- True SciPhi | Philosophy
- Undisclosed* | Crime, Law
- Why I Write* | Memoir
- With Friends Like These* | Culture, Politics
- You Are Not So Smart* | Psychology

News Media

It's important to keep in mind the bias of the media we consume. For the purposes of preparing for the AP Lang exam, it is important to broaden the news media we consume. Below is a chart created by AllSides.com. If you lean left, read some coverage of the same story from a right leaning publication and vice versa.

