

AP Seminar Summer Reading Assignment 2020

Gladwell, Malcolm. *Outliers: The Story Of Success*. New York : Back Bay Books, 2011. Print.

Read and annotate a paperback copy of *Outliers*, using the guidelines “How to Annotate” that follow these instructions. Then complete the assignment below.

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 Google Doc 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* (washingtonpost.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. While you research, track your notes and sources used.
3. You must create a **three to four minute** multimedia presentation (Slides, 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.). Your presentation should include a slide or separate Google Doc with MLA style references.

Your work is due to Google Classroom on the first block day of class in August.

The last request I have is that you start reading the news regularly. Take in news from several sources whenever possible. Start with topics of interest to you, and then start branching out. A well-founded understanding of current events and public discourse will serve you well in the years to come!

I look forward to journeying through this course with you this year. See you in August!

## How to Annotate

**What Not to Do**

1. Don't use a fat-tipped highlighter to highlight large amounts of text. You need to write notes about what you read. If you need color, use some color pens.
2. Don't mark large volumes of text; you want important points to stand out. Although we all know that everything can't be important, we often highlight all of the text on the page. You want to find the 20% of the text that is important and mark that
3. Don't mark the obvious. Don't waste time marking things you already know.
4. Don't take the time to mark up items that you read on a daily basis – (e.g., magazines, newspapers), unimportant or irrelevant items.

**What to Do**

1. Know your preferences – Some of you have an aversion to mark directly in the text. Books are precious things to many people and they want to protect them from damage and even the wear and tear of everyday use. If this describes you, grab some Post-It brand notes and do your marking and writing on them. This also gives you the advantage to move and re-organize them should you see fit. As for me, I like to mark directly on the page. I find that my books become more valuable to me when I add my contributions to the information that they contain.
2. Mark the text with pen, pencil, or colored pens.
3. Underline the topic sentence in a passage, then it will be easier to find the supporting evidence and explanations.
4. Use codes. For example, use question marks for places of disagreement, exclamation points for agreement or a strong statement, triangles to indicate a change in thinking, a star for the topic sentence.
5. Write passage topics in the margin.
6. Write questions in the margins. When you don't understand something or when you don't understand the author's thought process on a particular topic; write the question in the margin as a reminder to settle the question.
7. Circle new and unfamiliar words; look them up as soon as possible. Define them on the article.
8. Add your or other author's perspectives in the margins. Other authors have surely written on the subject. What do they say? Do they agree with this author? If not, what do they say? Add these in margins.
9. Add cross-reference notes to other works on the same topic, or to other sections of the same work. Use the author's name and a shortened version of the other book's title.
10. Draw arrows to related ideas.
11. Summarize. Add your own summary after the last paragraph of each chapter/segment/article. That simple exercise will crystalize your thinking on the topic. If you can't write it, you don't understand it.

Source: adapted from work by Bert Webb, 2006