

Greetings AP Language and Composition students:

The following is a description of your summer assignments. All of the responses are essays, and some of them are open-ended. When appropriate, support your responses with examples from the text, using page numbers and direct quotes where possible. As for format, use a formal structure: a strong, succinct introductory paragraph with a thesis statement followed by as many paragraphs needed to answer the question; end with a conclusion which restates your purpose and offers an insight.

As for length, **each essay should be approximately 2-4 pages** and typed, using 12 point Times New Roman font. Please use standard margins and DO NOT adjust the font size or margins to fit into the suggested length. If your essay is too long, use it as an opportunity to revise; focus on being direct, concise and unpretentious in your response.

Because one of this course's major aims is proficiency in college-level reading and writing, we need to begin during the summer to deepen and maximize our understanding of rhetoric, rhetorical devices, rhetorical modes, voice, and non-fiction in general. Therefore, these assignments, which will ultimately be evaluated, will serve as a springboard for our coursework and will be an integral part of our curriculum.

All essays must be submitted electronically **on the first day of school** by placing them into your Google Drive AP Lang & Comp folder. You should complete these assignments intermittently throughout the summer and when the Google class folder becomes available to you on the first day of school, submit them into that shared class folder. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this procedure, please see me before the end of the school year (rather than the first day of class).

One final word: "homework" during the summer may not be appealing, but reading and learning can be. Approach this assignment as an opportunity to view the world differently and grow as a writer and thinker. The more you fall behind with these assignments, the more you will dislike them. If you pace yourself properly, however, you should find them reasonable and often interesting. Enjoy!

DIRECTIONS: 1. Sign in to your HTTPS Google account and search for Mr. Puma's AP Language and Composition Class site. This site is a NEW Google site (not a classic site). Here's the link if you can't find it through a search. <https://sites.google.com/https.us/ap-language-composition/home> 2. View the essays and books that are electronically available on the HTTPS Google site (a copy of this assignment will also be available there as well). 3. As each essay is completed, create a file in the following format: your name – essay type. Ex. J. Smith – Analysis Essay. 4. Then, on the first day of

school, upload the four files into your Google Drive class folder. DO NOT SHARE the essays with me. Organizing them into the Google class folder will give me access to them.

AP Language & Composition Summer Assignment

Books

Outliers – Malcolm Gladwell - available on HTTPS Google site, the web, library or purchase
David & Goliath – Malcolm Gladwell - available on HTTPS Google site, the web, library or purchase
The Elements of Style – Strunck & White – available on HTTPS Google site, the web, library or purchase. Use this text as a reference as you draft your responses for this assignment and throughout the year. Pay special attention to Chapter Five “An Approach Style”.

Book Excerpts

Introduction to *Blink* – Malcolm Gladwell - available on HTTPS Google site and the web.

William Zinsser’s *On Writing Well* – Chapters 1-3 – available on HTSP Google site. Read and use as a reference as you draft your responses for this assignment and throughout the year.

Essay “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” – Nicholas Carr – available on HTTPS Google site and the web.

Suggested essay length – 2 - 4 pages – typed, 12 point font. Please DO NOT adjust the font size or margins to fit into the suggested length; this is not following the suggested length.

Essay Prompts

Analysis - Read the introduction to Malcolm Gladwell’s book *BLINK* (Pdf located on HTTPS Google site). What is Gladwell’s message and what rhetorical devices does he use to convey this message? You might use the “Rhetorical Devices Web Quest” on my Google site for ideas.

Argument - Read Nicholas Carr’s essay “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” (Pdf located on Google site). Support, refute, or qualify (take a position somewhere in between) Carr’s position on the effects of the Internet and technology. Use examples from your reading, observation and/or experience to support your answer.

Synthesis - In his book *Outliers*, Malcolm Gladwell argues that “there’s no such thing as a self-made man and that super achievers are successful because of their circumstances, their families, and their appetite for hard work” (from “Questions and Topics for Discussion”). To what extent do you agree with Gladwell? Support your answer with references from the book *Outliers* to support your response.

Narrative - After reading *David & Goliath*, tell the story of an “underdog” from your life or experience (this could be a family member, friend or acquaintance). Interview/research someone you know in order to learn their story, and then write about it as if it belongs in Gladwell’s book. You should emulate Gladwell’s style as best you can in the presentation of your original, nonfiction story. Remember, this is a nonfiction essay, so don’t make it up. :)