

## AP Language Summer Assignment 2022 - Introduction to Argument

### The AP Language Summer assignment includes the following:

- Read *Outliers: The Story of Success*, by Malcolm Gladwell.
- Listen to one season of *Revisionist History*, Malcolm Gladwell's podcast.

### You get to choose your level of participation.

Must do	Should do	Aspire to do
Read the book OR listen to one season of the Podcast.  Take notes over 5 chapters or 5 podcast episodes.	Read the book OR listen to one season of the Podcast.  OR - combine the two by reading the early chapters of <i>Outliers</i> and at least 5 episodes of the podcast.  Take notes on 10 chapters and/or podcast episodes.	Read all of the book AND listen to at least one season or ten episodes of the Podcast. Add any episodes that sound interesting to you.  Keep track of what you read or listen to, and take 10 chapter/episode notes that include both the book and the Podcast. Pay attention to how they are similar and how they are different.

### What does this mean?

AP English classes are based on goals and growth, so when you set high expectations for yourself, and you can identify growth moments, you are doing well in the class.

- **Must do** - this is the level of participation that shows willingness and cooperation. You can grow at this level, yet you may not be pushing yourself into a challenge.
- **Should do** - this is the baseline expectation I have for all of my students based on my understanding of the text and growth.
- **Aspire to do** - this is for students who are willing to go beyond expectations or who become independently interested in the content.

### How to choose:

- Podcasts are free and available on any device (see below). *Outliers* is available at many public libraries, or you may purchase your own copy. I will include PDF copies of the first chapter for students who want to try the book before they find a copy.
- *Outliers* has 4.17/5 stars on [Goodreads](#). It is a great book, and I think every high school student should read it. (Ms. Bolin)
- You may choose any season of the Podcast, based on which topics interest you. In each season, Gladwell connects topics across multiple episodes.
- Gladwell usually releases a new season every summer, so season 6 will be available soon.
- If you've never listened to a Podcast before, this would be a great time to start.
- If you can't choose - try both!

### From Goodreads:

Malcolm Gladwell is the author of five New York Times bestsellers—*The Tipping Point*, *Blink*, *Outliers*, *What the Dog Saw*, and *David and Goliath*. He is also the co-founder of Pushkin Industries, an audio content company that produces the podcasts *Revisionist History*, which reconsiders things both overlooked and misunderstood, and *Broken Record*, where he, Rick Rubin, and Bruce Headlam interview musicians across a wide range of genres. Gladwell has been included in the TIME 100 Most Influential People list and touted as one of Foreign Policy's Top Global Thinkers.

### **From *Revisionist History*:**

*Revisionist History* is Malcolm Gladwell's journey through the overlooked and the misunderstood. Every episode re-examines something from the past — an event, a person, an idea, even a song — and asks whether we got it right the first time. Because sometimes the past deserves a second chance.

### **What to listen/read for:**

**Argument** - Start by identifying the thesis or central claim of the episode or chapter. In some cases this may not be mentioned until late in the text or even the end: some may have an implicit thesis - one that you have to put together on your own. Listen or read for clues about how this develops.

### **How to take notes**

1. Write out the argument: what is the thesis, and how do you know?
2. After you write out the thesis, list 2-3 ways the speaker demonstrates the complexity to support the thesis. I suggest coming up with a note-taking method that is organized and easy to map out.
3. Think about what stood out to you the most in the style of writing. What did the author/speaker do that was unique in catching your attention? Did it work for you by helping you consider another perspective?

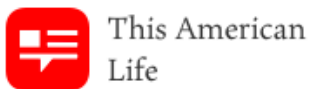
### **What will we do when we return to school?**

1. We will discuss readings/podcasts and what you noticed.
2. We will complete a sketch notes assignment.
3. We will complete a timed argument essay to start our work for the semester.

### **How do I listen?**

[Revisionist History website](#)

The following apps allow you to listen to podcasts on your devices. I download episodes to my Apple Podcasts app and listen to them when I am walking or driving.



This American Life



Apple Podcasts



Spotify



Google Podcasts



Radio Public



Pandora