

AP CAPSTONE SEMINAR

WELCOME LETTER

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To all students enrolled in AP Seminar and their parents/guardians:

Welcome to the College Board's Advanced Placement Capstone Program. AP Seminar is the first class taken sophomore year at Stoneman Douglas and is followed the next year with AP Research. In order to attain the AP Capstone endorsement on your diploma it is necessary to take and pass, with a score of three or higher, both Seminar and Research, as well as four other AP classes before graduating.

AP Seminar is much more than just a research and writing course. It involves critical thinking, public speaking, argumentation, debate, synthesis, analyzing, interpretation, close reading, collaboration, and inference skills. We will work on and hone many of these skills throughout the first semester, but it is important that you come into this class with good writing and research habits. It is also important for you to have an open mind and an interest in exploring the world we live in today.

In order for you to attain your final AP score there is more than just an AP exam for Seminar. You must also complete two performance tasks. Performance Task 1 consists of working in a group, conducting your own research on a chosen group topic, writing an individual research report (1,200 words), and giving a group presentation (8-10 minutes) with an oral defense (one question per group member). Performance Task 2 entails creating an original research question from source material from College Board, writing an individual written argument (2,000 words), and giving an individual presentation (5-7 minutes) with an oral defense (two questions). Finally, you will take the AP exam in May, which consists of free response questions and an argumentative essay.

In order to prepare for AP Seminar this summer you are required to read the non-fiction novel *Outliers* by Malcom Gladwell, and write an argumentative essay. You will need to get your own copy, because you will be annotating as you read. The complete summer assignment, with instructions and essay prompts, is included in this handout.

- Due August 29th or earlier:
- 1.) Your annotated copy of *Outliers*
 - 2.) Your argumentative essay
 - 3.) Your signed and dated College Board Plagiarism Policy

Again, welcome to AP Seminar! It's going to be a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Andrea Kowalski-Rospierski M.Ed.

AP CAPSTONE SEMINAR

COLLEGE BOARD PLAGIARISM POLICY

Directions: After reading and understanding the AP Capstone Plagiarism Policy, sign, date, and have a parent or guardian sign and date it as well. This is your first grade for the quarter, and is due the first day of class.

AP Capstone™ Policy on Plagiarism and Falsification or Fabrication of Information

A student who fails to acknowledge the source or author of any and all information or evidence taken from the work of someone else through citation, attribution, or reference in the body of the work, or through a bibliographic entry, will receive a score of 0 on that particular component of the AP® Seminar and/or AP Research Performance Assessment Task. In AP® Seminar, a team of students that fails to properly acknowledge sources or authors on the Written Team Report will receive a group score of 0 for that component of the Team Project and Presentation.

A student who incorporates falsified or fabricated information (e.g., evidence, data, sources, and/or authors) will receive a score of 0 on that particular component of the AP Seminar and/or AP Research Performance Assessment Task. In AP Seminar, a team of students that incorporates falsified or fabricated information in the Written Team Report will receive a group score of 0 for that component of the Team Project and Presentation.

Student Name

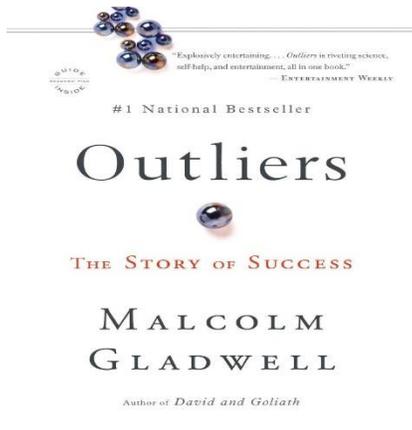
Parent Name

Signature

Signature

Date

Date



Part I: Read and annotate the non-fiction novel *The Outliers* by Malcom Gladwell. You will need to get your own copy.

What to annotate:

- Interesting facts, ideas, points
- Key information
- Write questions that arise as you read
- Summarize relevant sections
- Mark and define words or concepts you are unfamiliar with
- Write your own ideas about points being made

Part II: Choose one of the following essay topics and write a well composed response. Your essay should argue and support your position. Be sure to have a clear thesis statement as well as support from Gladwell's novel and at least two additional sources.

Prompt 1: 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.” To what extent do you agree with Gladwell? In a well-organized essay, support your argument with references and examples from the book *Outliers* and two additional sources to support your response.

Prompt 2: Locate an individual who is successful (one who has achieved mastery, not just fleeting fame) in a particular field. Argue whether you think his/her success had to do with the social and external factors that Gladwell discusses in his book *Outliers* or whether this person's success was due to the more conventional notion of individual talent that is inherent in an individual. In your discussion of this successful person you may want to decide whether they experienced any of the phenomenon Gladwell talks about:

- a) The Matthew Effect
- b) 10,000 hours of work in order to become proficient
- c) Advantageous era of birth
- d) Born in a demographic trough
- e) Exposure to meaningful work
- f) The ability to express to someone what one wants (the presumption of being heard)
- g) Cultural practices which encouraged success

Prompt 3: In his book *Outliers* Gladwell makes the argument that success cannot be attributed to only one element. Instead, people are often successful due to a set of circumstances. In your essay, write to argue barriers that could prevent a person from achieving success. Consider where the barriers are coming from, if they are preventable, and how/if they can be overcome.

Your essay must:

- Be no less than 1,200 words, Be typed and printed
- Use in text citations and quotes
- Be written in correct MLA format, including a works cited page with all sources used (3 or more)
 - **If you are unsure how to use MLA format use the Purdue OWL**
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
- **Be turned in by August 29th or earlier**