

Mrs. Jacqueline Sienkowski
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English 1 Honors

All Honors Freshman will read the following:

SUMMER READING:

Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell
ISBN: 978-0-316-01792-3

Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
ISBN: 978-0-307-45592-5

SUMMER WRITING (*Outliers*):

Short answer responses to the attached questions. Short answer responses are, at least, one to two paragraphs in length, include an introductory sentence, and an actual answer to the question. Please be careful, if a question is in two-parts, make sure to answer both parts completely. These questions will be collected during the first week of English class, discussed, and be part of a short, in-class, writing assignment; questions and associated in-class writing assignment will be graded.

Please complete these questions on a separate sheets of paper

1. When does a Canadian hockey player want to be born? Why does it matter?
2. What's the 10,000-hour rule
3. What problems might there be in Gladwell's list of history's richest individuals?
4. Look at the time of year the techies were born. Do the dates support the time of year claim?
5. What might explain the fact that not all Nobel winners come from the very best colleges, other than Gladwell's IQ "good enough" claim?
6. Does Chris Langan's experience mean, as Gladwell claims that success isn't really about individual merit?
7. Gladwell claims historical treatment of Jews in both Europe and the U.S. led to their dominance in the garment industry and NYC law firms. How much of an individual Jewish New Yorker's success should be attributed to the historical factors?
8. Gladwell gives several reasons for Asian academic success. What are they and which do you find most convincing?
9. Do the privileges and advantages Gladwell cites seem as decisive as he claims? Are these advantages unique?
10. What advantages have you benefited from? Why haven't they been enough to catapult you to an outlier level of success? Alternatively, if you consider yourself very successful, to what do you attribute your success?
11. Rate *Outliers* on a scale of 1 to 5, 5 being best.

SUMMER WRITING (*Americanah*):

A two to three (no more than three) page paper, double-spaced, addressing the major thematic idea of *identity* in the novel. How does one's identity lead to one's development of self? Use examples from the novel to support your position. Essays will be collected during the first day of English class, and will receive a grade. Any student who does not turn in the essay, when collected, will receive a zero (0) and not be given an opportunity to make-up the assignment. In addition, any student who does not turn in the assignment, may be dropped from Honors and placed into CP.