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To incoming English I Honors students:

Your summer reading and writing work will be reflective of what, and how, we will be approaching your upcoming academic year.

All Honors English Freshmen will read the following for the summer reading assignment:

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

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle (ISBN: 9780312367541- Barnes & Noble)

All Honors English Freshmen will complete the following writing activities for the summer writing assignment:

Answer the following questions in short answer responses. Short answer responses are at least one to two paragraphs in length. Please include an introductory sentence and of course, an actual answer to the questions. If a question is in two-parts, make sure to answer both parts completely. These questions will be collected as well as submitted to Turnitin.com on the first day of English class. We will discuss the questions, your responses, and will complete a short, in-class, writing assignment. Questions and associated in-class writing assignments will be graded.

Please complete these questions on separate sheets of paper (your responses may be typed or written by hand)

1. When does a Canadian hockey player want to be born? Why does it matter?
2. What is the 10,000 rule?
3. What problems might there be in Gladwell's list of history's richest individuals?
4. Look at the time of the 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 *Outlier* on a scale of 1-5, 5 being the best.

A Wrinkle in Time summer writing:

Please write a two to three (no more than three) page paper, double-spaced, addressing a major thematic idea of *individuality vs. conformity*, in the novel. Use examples from the novel to support your writing while you analyze the novel and reflect upon your own experiences. Essays will be collected and submitted to Turnitin.com on 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.