

Dear 2019-2020 AP English Language and Composition Students,

Congratulations for choosing to participate in this course.

AP English Language and Composition will focus on developing the skills needed to succeed in a college-level writing course. Our course will follow the course requirements described in the *AP English Language and Composition Course Description* published by the College Board. Although you can expect to read some imaginative works of literature, these works will not be our primary focus nor will we look at them in quite the same way that you have in past English courses. In this class, nonfiction texts will be at the forefront of our study. You will learn to think deeply about the possibilities of language as a persuasive tool and about the dynamic relationship of writer, context, audience, and argument in written, spoken, and visual texts.

As the equivalent of a first-year college-level writing course, a major consideration of this course is to prepare you to write effectively and confidently across the curriculum and in your professional and personal lives. Our course will emphasize the expository, analytical, and argumentative writing that forms the basis of academic and professional communication, as well as the personal and reflective writing that fosters the development of writing skills in all contexts.

AP English Language and Composition will make demands on you that will be greater than in the other English and language arts courses you have taken. The reading material will be challenging, and the writing will be more extensive. **Completion of the summer reading assignment will serve as a focus for the first lessons of the year and, more importantly, will be an early demonstration of your commitment to the scope and pace of this course. Expect a test and substantial writing assignment during the first two weeks of this course.**

Summer Reading Requirement:

*Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell  
*The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls

Read both summer reading texts. Annotate both texts carefully. A review of annotation techniques is on the other side of this page. In *Outliers*, identify and annotate the author's main claim and supporting evidence for the following chapters.

**CHAPTER ONE: The Matthew Effect**  
**CHAPTER TWO: The 10,000-Hour Rule**  
**CHAPTER THREE: The Trouble with Geniuses, Part I**  
**CHAPTER FOUR: The Trouble with Geniuses, Part II**  
**CHAPTER FIVE: The Three Lessons of Joe Flom**  
**CHAPTER SIX: Harlan, Kentucky**  
**CHAPTER SEVEN: The Ethnic Theory of Plane Crashes**  
**CHAPTER EIGHT: Rice Paddies and Math Tests**  
**CHAPTER NINE: MARITA'S BARGAIN**  
**EPILOGUE: A Jamaican Story**

Have a nice summer. I'm looking forward to meeting you in August.

Mr. Stewart

## Annotation Guide

ANNOTATING simply means marking the page as you read with comments, marks, and notes. The principal reason you should annotate your books is to aid in understanding. When important passages occur, mark them so that they can be easily located when it comes time to write an essay or respond to the piece of literature. Marking key ideas will enable you to discuss the reading with more support, evidence, and/or proof than if you rely only on memory.

### ANNOTATING MAY INCLUDE:

- highlighting key words, phrases or sentences
- writing questions or comments in the margins
- bracketing important ideas or passages
- connecting ideas with lines or arrows
- highlighting passages that are important to understanding the work

### HOW TO ANNOTATE A TEXT:

- Highlighting/underlining—Highlighting stands out from the page and allows you to scan a page quickly for information. Be careful not to mark too much. If everything is highlighted, nothing becomes important.
- Brackets [ ]—If several lines seem important, place a bracket around the passage; then highlight or underline only key phrases within the bracketed area. This will draw attention to the passage without cluttering it with too many highlighted or underlined sentences.
- Asterisks \* --An asterisk indicates something unusual, special, or important. Multiple asterisks indicate a stronger degree of importance.
- Marginal notes—Use space in the margin to respond to ideas in the book. Ask questions, label literary elements, summarize critical events, explain ideas, make a comment, and identify characters.

### TYPES OF THINGS TO MARK/WRITE IN A TEXT:

- The name of a character the first time he or she is introduced
- Insight into his or her character
- Images, objects, ideas that pop up repeatedly
- Passages relating to the theme
- Passages that indicate the tone (author's attitude toward the subject)
- Allusions
- Figurative language (similes, metaphors, personification, etc.)
- Passages that indicate the setting and the effect the setting has on the characters and text
- Words or phrases you don't understand
- Diction (effective or unusual word choice)