

# AP LANG SUMMER READING 2023

MR. TROWELL

## INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on choosing to take AP Language and Composition - one of Northside High School's most rigorous courses.

This class promises to challenge you intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally.

Through this course you will sharpen your confidence and facility with language as you approach meaningful work. Malcolm Gladwell, whose book *Outliers* we will read this year, defines meaningful work as having autonomy, complexity, and a direct relationship between effort and reward.

This summer reading assignment attempts to fulfill this definition, offering a complex product, and a reward directly related to the quality of your effort.

For the summer of 2023, we will be reading *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore. This memoir tells "the story of two boys living in Baltimore with similar histories and an identical name: Wes Moore. One of us is free," Moore writes, "the other will spend every day until his death behind bars." This nonfiction book explores concepts of poverty, education, family, and race in an effort to understand why the lives of these two men diverged.

You will need to get **a physical copy** of the book as you will not be allowed to use digital books in class.

Also, keep in mind that text contains some crude language, as well as references to sex and drugs. These issues are raised in an effort to understand the complex paths traveled by the two people in this book. As you are entering into a college level course, I expect you to handle these issues with a mature attitude.

## READING AND ANNOTATING

While you read your book, be sure to annotate thoroughly in order to be well-prepared for class discussion as well as a test. Focus on identifying claims or main ideas and considering how the author develops those claims through rhetorical devices, techniques, or strategies. If you are uncertain about what this means, ask your current teacher or stop by my room before you leave for summer break.

I will check your annotations when you return in August.

# "EXCELLENCE... IS NOT AN ACT BUT A HABIT" - JOHN WOODEN

## PARTING THOUGHTS

One final reminder—AP Language is for contenders not pretenders. By choosing to take this class, you are choosing to adopt a rigorous schedule that will develop a sound mind capable of meeting the challenges of mastering rhetoric and composition. The rewards you receive for taking this class will be the satisfaction of a challenge well-met, the college credit received from the AP Exam, and the life-long skills to navigate a rhetorically complex society.

The quality of each of these rewards will be directly related to the effort you apply and the consistency with which you apply it.

If, as John Wooden claims, “we are what we repeatedly do” then it stands to reason that “excellence is not an act, but a habit.” Practice excellence this summer. I look forward to working with you in the fall.

MR. TROWELL