

AP LANG INTRODUCTION 2025-26

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. AP Lang. is a writing course, designed to sharpen your confidence and facility with language as you approach meaningful work.

OUTLIERS, VOLUNTARY SUMMER READING

This summer Northside has elected to forego mandatory summer reading assignments; however, I would encourage you consider reading *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell during your summer break.

There are at least three benefits to completing this assignment. One, you avoid brain-rotting atrophy. While resting your mind is certainly beneficial, the summer break is frankly too long to go without using your mind. Reading this book will encourage you to keep your wits about you.

Two, students who elect to complete this reading and annotate the book according to the directions on the back of this page will have an opportunity to earn some form of extra credit that their less motivated peers will not.

And three, this will be the first long-work we read together as a class, so anyone who reads it ahead of schedule will certainly have a leg-up when it comes to tests and essays.

If you choose to read the text, be sure to get **a physical copy**. You will not be allowed to use digital books in class, and you will be expected to write in the text, so borrowing or renting texts is typically not permitted outside of specific circumstances.

READING AND ANNOTATING

To be eligible for the extra credit, students will need to read the entire book, pass a comprehension test and submit their book for an annotation check. I'm looking for at least one meaningful annotation every two pages. A meaningful annotation should identify a claim or main idea, identify and comment on evidence used to support those claims, or note a rhetorical choice that increases the persuasiveness of the writing.

If you are uncertain about what this means, ask your current teacher or stop by my room before you leave for summer break.

"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