

## **OUTLIERS: A STORY OF SUCCESS SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT**

### **Instructions:**

Please type this assignment. Make sure that it is typed in size 12 point Times New Roman, Courier, or Arial fonts. It should be double-spaced, and the paper should have one inch margins. Save your file to multiple places, like your computer, Google Drive, Dropbox, a flash drive or email. A lost file will not be an excuse for a late submission. On the first day back, your teacher will provide the method of submission.

### **Top 10 List from lessons learned from the chapters**

*Outliers: A Story of Success* is full of stories of how and why people succeed. Each of these success stories teaches us a lesson of what is needed to plot out our next step toward our own success. With this assignment, you will create a top 10 list of the most important lessons from each chapter. Through this assignment, you are asked to **know and remember** what it took for different individuals to succeed.

For this assignment:

- 1) Identify, describe and explain the most important lesson in each chapter and the epilogue.
- 2) Rank them in order. (1 being the most important lesson)
- 3) Briefly explain how the lesson was portrayed in that chapter, why you think that lesson is important, and why you ranked it the way you did. (Remember to explain and justify your answers. Do not just leave statements like “I ranked it number one because it is the most important lesson”)

### **Interview (minimum 3 pages)**

*Outliers: A Story of Success* is full of stories of how and why people succeed. Each of these success stories was special to them. What is important is that these stories offer us a “...fascinating and provocative blueprint for making the most of [our] potential”. Through reading this book, you get to **know and remember** what it took for different individuals to succeed. The next step is to interview someone who embodies your definition of success . (Remember, there are different forms of success, and one of the most important aspects of this project is to give you direction, but you can’t have direction without a clear focus on your idea of success) This interview will help you better **understand** what it takes to be successful and to begin to **apply** what you have learned after reading the text. *Outliers: A Story of Success* offers you aspects of how different individuals succeed, and the interview will allow you to interpret and classify the data and to extend that information to questions that you can tailor to ask the person you choose to interview.

As you prepare for your interview, try and focus on **open-ended questions** to create more of a conversation. This will not only help in this interview, but it will give you insight when you interview for a job or for a college. Use this interview as a way to test your own ability to hold a conversation and obtain information.

For this assignment:

- 1) Offer a short introduction of the person you chose to interview and why you chose him/her. This section should be at least half a page.
- 2) Provide a transcript that includes each question in bold font. Place the answers directly beneath them (not in bold). Include 5 **open-ended questions** that are insightful and thought provoking. This section should be at least 2 pages.
- 3) Write a short conclusion of what you learned about your own path forward from the interview. This section should be at least half a page.

## **Personal Statement**

*Outliers: A Success Story* helps us to understand “people whose achievements fall outside normal experience”, and with the upcoming year being such an integral year of either beginning to discover or continuing to unlock the mystery and awesomeness of who you are, it is important to make “the most of [your] potential” and show it to the world. To that end, we will continue the living document (a document that is continually edited and updated; a document that evolves as you do) by refining your personal statement. Through the personal statement, you will continue to **apply** your understanding of success and begin to **analyze and examine** how it can be applied to your future success.

You should already have a version that you may have started as early as your freshman year or that you just started last year. Otherwise, the first step is to write a personal statement. Most teachers usually have asked students to respond to a UC or Common Application prompt, but you are not confined to those, especially if you know where you want to apply.

**Note:** Besides the personal statement being a part of the summer reading grade, it will be used as the starting point of our first process essay, so make an effort to complete this task since it will have a great effect in your grade.

So, let’s follow these simple steps:

- 1) Research personal statements and the prompts of the colleges that you would like to apply to. (Like most living documents, it is the act of researching that will give you true

insight into what these personal statements should look like and what methods there are to approach each one)

- 2) Write your personal statement on one of the prompts (you can write on more than one, but we will mainly be looking at one of them for the beginning of the year. It is good to try out more than one prompt. Sometimes, the one you think you would write better is not always the best choice. Try a few out and see what you may learn about yourself).
  - a) Consider what you have read in *Outliers* and consider how the “surroundings of the successful-their culture, their family, their generation, and their idiosyncratic experiences of their upbringing” made them stand out from the crowd. How do your surroundings reflect those of the stories that you have read?
  - b) Consider what you will use to determine your own success in life, both immediately after high school and beyond.

**For Submission:**

1. **Top 10 List**
2. **Interview**
3. **Personal Statement**