

2025-2026 AP Language Summer Reading Assignment

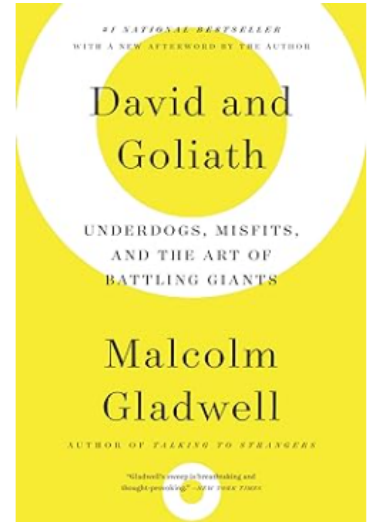
Welcome to AP Language and Composition/EN 101 and 102! Next year we will embark on a journey to better understand how people use language to communicate their ideas and convince others that they have a strong message. This is a wonderful class with important, transferable life skills, and I am excited to begin. If you are unable or unwilling to read a book, change your schedule. Email Mrs. Gurgeot if you have any questions: Terri.Gurgeot@hartselletigers.org.

The goal of the summer work is to create a springboard for our thinking over the school year. The more effort and time you put into the summer work, the more success you will get out of the process. As you read, annotate for the following questions:

- What is Gladwell's argument and how does he build it?
 - How does Gladwell use storytelling to persuade?
 - What larger themes or assumptions is he challenging?
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Read *David and Goliath* by Malcolm Gladwell. This is a collection of essays about how sometimes disadvantages might actually work to a person's benefit. (Thriftbooks and Amazon have the best deals on this particular title.)

After reading the book, find two articles that refute or support Gladwell's arguments about one of his topics. The goal of the work is to build your own synthesis between the book and selected articles to convey a specific conclusion. Please have copies of the articles in class with you for the beginning of the year.



Other things that will help you but are not required:

- **Read nonfiction texts over the summer.** I will be reading a couple of non-fiction narratives this summer to prepare, and I suggest you do the same. The more you read, the better your writing will be.
- **Watch/read/listen to the news.** News ≠ TikTok or Twitter. Try to consume from different organizations from all over the spectrum. See how the same story is presented by different news organizations. Try to be up on current events. This will help with the argument. This [media bias chart](#) may interest you.
- **GIVE YOURSELF TIME** – I know this may feel contradictory, but go outside, go to the beach, and hang out with friends. If you prefer to read fiction – read fiction! Any reading you do this summer will help. The summer should be fun! Junior year can feel really overwhelming so soak up some relaxation so that you are ready to rock in August.