Dual Credit English 1301
Outliers Essay Assignment
Due Date: Monday, November 18

Prompt: Choose a topic presented in Outliers about which you feel strongly and which you think may be difficult to explain. The topic may be about the education system, language, cultural legacy, plane crashes, math, age grouping, opportunity inequity, etc. With this essay, you will enter into the academic conversation about this topic and reflect on how Outliers has broadened your view of this topic. Research to find expert knowledge pertaining to your subject and choose a minimum of THREE secondary sources to include in your paper. Do not simply choose a source based on a singular quote; rather, choose sources that fundamentally tackle your topic. Remember the point of this is to prove how and why the topic is complex and has shaped your worldview. While this paper will include your own opinions, it should maintain a formal tone (no first or second person). Make sure to support your claims with reliable sources, do not summarize, and avoid fallacies.

This paper must be collaborative. You will choose one other person to work with on this essay. Groups are to be partnerships only (2 people), but you can collaborate with any dual credit student, regardless of instructor and period. You will probably want to decide on your partner choice early in this research process, though you will be expected to report who your partner is on November 11. You and your partner can work collaboratively throughout the research process, but you will be expected to have your own unique research proposal, physically annotated sources, research logs, and annotated bibliography. The works cited can be the exact same as your partner, but it would be a good idea to have separate works cited pages and compare your research to ultimately choose the best sources to use in the paper.

This is a documented paper; your voice and position about the topic should be central to the paper. Write in formal third-person academic tone, but make the difficulty of your position clear. A note on style: think of this like a debate on your own version of Meet the Press. You are the central voice of the debate; you have chosen the subject and organized the speakers. Gladwell is the celebrity guest, and the sources are the panel of experts. Not all sources will agree with Gladwell, but all will be shaped by the context in which you surround their words. You can control the way in which their arguments are perceived by what you allow them to say (i.e. the quotes you choose), the length of their speaking time (i.e. the length of the quotes), and what appears before and after they speak (i.e. your words that contextualize their thoughts).

You must directly quote from Outliers a minimum of THREE times. As a partnership, you will decide which secondary sources you’d like to use in the paper. You will choose THREE secondary sources, each directly quoted at least ONCE (6 total direct quotes). One of the direct secondary quotes will be a visual (chart, graph, photo, illustration, etc.). If you paraphrase or summarize, this will not count as quoting from the secondary source. If you have met your quote minimum, you can include sources via summary or paraphrase thereafter. All quotes, summary, and paraphrase need to be documented internally and on the works cited. All drafts of the essay must include a works cited page with correctly formatted MLA citations for all sources in order to be scored. Papers lacking a works cited will receive a zero.

The final essay will be 800-1000 words, typed in MLA format. Papers that do not meet the required minimum will not receive a passing score. Include a word count at the end of your essay which does NOT include the heading, title, or works cited. EX: word count= 960 words

Don’t forget to proofread, introduce all quotes, and develop a strong sense of voice. Diction, continuity, and flow of writing matter in addition to grammar, mechanics, and MLA conventions.

You must submit your paper in hard copy at the beginning of class (whoever’s class is first between you and your partner) and to turnitin.com by 7:25 a.m. on November 18. Because only one student will be submitting to TurnItIn.com, you will need to submit a printed receipt as proof of submission. TurnItIn.com and paper submissions should be identical. Submit your hard copies in the order indicated below in a manila envelope with your names on the front.
Submission order:
Top: Essay Rubric
   TurnItIn.com receipt
   final draft
   graded annotated bibliographies (if returned)
   research logs
   physical source annotations
   graded works cited
Bottom: graded proposals
*place any other drafts in chronological order

Paper Due Dates:
October 28  research proposal
November 1   works cited
November 4   physical source annotations
             3 research logs
November 6/7 annotated bibliography
             seminar
November 18  essay due
November 19  partnership survey due