

Summer Reading Assignment for AP Language and Composition

Welcome to AP Language where “everything is an argument”! For your summer reading assignment, you will read *Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven kids* by Alexandra Robbins and *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell and complete three assignments. You will write a 750-1000- word argumentative essay and you will annotate both of your books with Post-it Notes. You will complete 100 post-it notes per book. All assignments will be due on the 1st day of class. You will turn your books in to your teacher and you will submit your essay on Turnitin.com. Additionally, we will have a Discussion Seminar over *Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids* during the 2nd week of school and an in-class essay over *Outliers*. You will get the questions for those assignments when you return to school in the fall.

Assignment #1: Argumentative Essay

Essay: Identify one of the main arguments *Alexandra Robbins* uses to make her case that “our high-stakes educational culture has spiraled out of control.” Respond to this argument in the form of a multiple paragraph argumentative essay in which you take a stand on the argument (for or against). Support your argument with examples from the text (DIRECT QUOTES and paraphrases with MLA citations You may not use any other materials (other books, the Internet, or people) to help you write your argument.

Your essay must include:

- For your heading, put your name, teacher’s name, the class, and date in the top, left-hand corner.
MLA formatting help: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
- An interesting title (centered, no bold, no underlining, no quotation marks; the title should not be the title of the book or the title of the assignment.)
- An introduction with an interesting opener, the author and title, the thesis statement (the message the author hopes to convey/the argument you’ve identified), and (the ways/devices the author gets that message across/your stance on the argument)
- Several body paragraphs with transitions, topic sentences, specific details from the novel, excellent support with your voice and insight, and at least six direct quotes with parenthetical documentation; for example: Author’s last name and page number:(Robbins 87).
- A solid conclusion which reiterates the thesis and ends in a strong, interesting way, leaving the reader with something to THINK about or challenge the reader in some way.
- Your essay should be approximately 750-1000 words. Please do not go over the 1000 word limit.

YOU WILL ALSO BE GRADED ON:

- Proper grammar and spelling
- Active voice (few “be” verbs – am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been); Use Strong Verbs (check Moodle)
- MLA style, Typed, double-spaced using 12-point Times New Roman font
- Double-spaced

*******Your essay will be submitted through turnitin.com and checked for plagiarism. Make sure that you have cited ALL direct quotes and paraphrases that you have used from *Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids*.**

Assignments #2 & 3- You will annotate both Books—*The Overachievers* and *Outliers*. Follow the guidelines listed below.

1. Buy 1-2 packages of Post-It Notes. Your Post-It notes must be 3in x 3in or larger. You must place at least **100 notes in each book** (make sure you purchase enough). You should spread the notes out evenly throughout the book. You should have as many in the beginning as you do at the end. One post-it about every few pages is a good way to make sure you cover the whole book.
2. **AS YOU READ**, you should respond to the text on the Post-It Notes. **FOCUS ON THE QUALITY OF YOUR COMMENTS.** Each note should be at least 2-3 sentences long and should be detailed. Your notes can contain any of the types of reflections shown at the bottom of this page JUST MAKE SURE TO USE A VARIETY. Basically, I am looking to see that you have read the novel and can make THOUGHTFUL AND ORIGINAL RESPONSES to it.
3. **Format of Notes**
 - 1) Label each note with the type of reflection that you have used.
 - 2) Include the page number you are responding to, in the lower right corner. This is to help you in case the note falls out of your book.
 - 3) Include the number of the note in the upper left corner. This will help you keep count of how many notes you have completed.
4. Turn in your book with Post-It Notes on the first day of school.
5. **Types of Reflections for your Post-It Notes with examples of how the Post-It Note should look**

Type	Reflection	Example
Connection	Tell how events in the story relate to your life or the lives of people you have heard of or to characters in other books, plays, movies, or tv shows.	1 <u>Connection</u> Hester's public humiliation on the scaffold reminds me of Hannah in <i>13 Reasons Why</i> . Her classmates were really cruel to her because of the rumors. I am surprised at how cruel people can be towards someone because of their sins. Shouldn't God be the one to judge? Pg. 6
Question	Ask a specific question about the story or about why an author wrote it the way he/she did.	2 <u>Question</u> Why is Dimmesdale defending Hester to the Governor and other leaders in the town? Maybe he is the father... Pg. 20
Emotion	Tell how the events in the story make you feel. Do you think the character is making good choices?	3 <u>Emotion</u> I think that Hester is making a mistake by not telling Dimmesdale that Chillingworth is her husband. She could be causing Dimmesdale unneeded pain. Pg. 30
Analysis	Discuss the theme, point of view, setting, conflict, or rhetorical devices such as tone, diction, imagery, syntax, overall writing style.	4 <u>Analysis</u> The leech is an appropriate epithet for Chillingworth. Not only is he a doctor, but he is literally sucking the life out of Dimmesdale with his questions about his internal struggles. Pg. 107
Summary	Write a few sentences explaining what is happening in the story. You might explain the significance of these events.	5 <u>Summary</u> Dimmesdale finally stands on the Scaffold with Pearl and Hester. However, because it happens at night it shows that he is not ready to face the full consequences of his sin by confessing to the community. Pg. 220
Other	You can write anything that is appropriate that shows that you have thoughtfully considered the novel.	????????????????????

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Grading Rubric for Post-it Annotations-total for each book combined

Criteria	Excellent 86-100%	Proficient 71- 85 %	Acceptable 61-70%	Needs Improvement 0-60% (If less than 120 notes all categories will score in this range)
Number of notes 10 points	171-200 Post-its or more	170-141Post-its	140-121 Post-its	Less than 120 Post-its
Depth- 50 points	<p>Most Post-its contain 2-3 sentences</p> <p>Each is thoughtful</p> <p>I can tell you have read and thought about this book and were actively engaged in the annotation process.</p> <p>Your responses show an advanced understanding of analytical skills</p>	<p>Many Post-its contain 2-3 sentences</p> <p>Some thought seems to have went into them, but you are not consistently engaged in the novel at an advanced level</p> <p>I'm fairly sure that you read the novel, but you needed to do more work on your Post-its to show a high level of active engagement</p>	<p>Most Post-its have 1-2 sentences</p> <p>There are some thoughtful responses but many more that only state the obvious</p> <p>You probably read the book and did your annotations afterwards instead of actively engaging in the novel as you read</p>	<p>Most Post-its only contain 1 sentence or less.</p> <p>Usually only state the obvious with only a few thoughtful responses.</p> <p>There is not sufficient evidence that you have read the novel or actively engaged with it.</p>
Variety of responses 20 points	Use of 6 types of responses listed on the assignment sheet.	Use of 4-5 types of responses listed on the assignment sheet.	Use of 3-4 types of responses listed on the assignment sheet.	Use of 1-2 types of responses listed on the assignment sheet.
Neatness 10 points	<p>Each note has a page number.</p> <p>The handwriting is neat and legible</p> <p>Notes are neatly organized in the novel</p> <p>Proper-sized notes are used</p>	<p>Most notes have page numbers.</p> <p>The writing is fairly neat.</p> <p>Most notes are neatly placed in the novel.</p>	<p>Some notes have page numbers</p> <p>The writing is difficult to read</p> <p>The notes are not organized in an orderly fashion</p>	<p>Page numbers are not used</p> <p>The writing is almost illegible</p> <p>Notes are haphazardly placed throughout the novel</p>
Complete and on Time 10 points	Annotations are complete and turned in on time.	Annotations are 1 day late	Annotations are 2 days late	Annotations are 3 or more days late.
Final Grade				
Teacher Comments				