

Summer Assignment: Junior AP English

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First - let us say that we hope this is not the only book you read this summer. If you plan on challenging yourself academically, you should already have a sense of what interests you and what topics you wish to find more information about. Keep doing that. The more you read, the more ingrained logical patterns and reasoning will set in your mind. This will make reading more complex ideas much easier because you will already have ideas of your own to compare with the ideas you are exploring.

This assignment will be a step in the process of doing just that. There is no shortcut to learning how to think. No one can do this for you. But we, as teachers, can point the way. It is up to you to embrace the task and learn the most you can from it. What is the assigned summer work for junior-level Advanced Placement English?

- Choose and acquire **FACTFULNESS: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think** by Hans Rosling

OR

- **David and Goliath – Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants** by Malcolm Gladwell *We recommend buying your own copy but OE does have a limited supply of each text available for checkout– See Mr. Larkin in Room 607*
- Write 10 summaries, each 4–6 sentences long, over any 10 of the chapters in your chosen book (including introductions or after word). There will be a total of 10 summaries, no matter which book you are reading or how many chapters there are.
- Choose ten quotations, from 10 different chapters, from your chosen book. Then respond to each quote in a 4-6 sentence paragraph. (more details below)
- Be ready to submit this assignment (ALL IN A SINGLE DOCUMENT) on August 15th (2nd day of school) to *Turnitin.com* and *Canvas*.
- An assessment project over the book will be completed in class the week of August 18th

Free Link to PDF of **Factfulness**:

[**Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think**](#)

Free Link to PDF of **David and Goliath**:

[**David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits and the Art of Battling Giants**](#)

Turnitin.com is a website used by educators to verify that your work is original. Do not copy your analysis from websites or from other students. All summer assignments must be submitted to Turnitin.com in order to receive credit. Google Classroom is an online learning platform that will be used for this class. You should be prepared to join both platforms on the first day of class.

You do not need to use online resources to complete this assignment. All you need to do is read the book and summarize what you have read and respond to quotes of your choosing. Do the work yourself. There is no shortcut to becoming a better reader. You have to put in the work yourself. Copying or referring to online work is cheating yourself from becoming the better student that you need to be to accomplish your goals. What you write from your own mind will be far better for you than anything you find online.

Book Descriptions – These books were chosen because they make arguments that may be supported or refuted. We do not want you to accept what the author writes: we want you to question the assertions, to consider the evidence, to evaluate the persuasive strategies, to think for yourself. Descriptions of the books from internet sources can be found on the following page.

FACTFULNESS: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think by Hans Rosling.

When asked simple questions about global trends—what percentage of the world's population live in poverty; why the world's population is increasing; how many girls finish school—we systematically get the answers wrong. So wrong that a chimpanzee choosing answers at random will consistently outguess teachers, journalists, Nobel laureates, and investment bankers.

In *Factfulness*, Professor of International Health and global TED phenomenon Hans Rosling, together with his two long-time collaborators, Anna and Ola, offers **a radical new explanation of why this happens**. They reveal **the ten instincts that distort our perspective**—from our tendency to divide the world into two camps (usually some version of us and them) to the way we consume media (where fear rules) to how we perceive progress (believing that most things are getting worse).

Our problem is that we don't know what we don't know, and even our guesses are informed by unconscious and predictable biases.

It turns out that the world, for all its imperfections, is in a much better state than we might think. That doesn't mean there aren't real concerns. But when we worry about everything all the time instead of embracing a worldview based on facts, we can lose our ability to focus on the things that threaten us most.

Inspiring and revelatory, filled with lively anecdotes and moving stories, ***Factfulness is an urgent and essential book that will change the way you see the world and empower you to respond to the crises and opportunities of the future.***

"This book is my last battle in my life-long mission to fight devastating ignorance... Previously I armed myself with huge data sets, eye-opening software, an energetic learning style and a Swedish bayonet for sword-swallowing. It wasn't enough. But I hope this book will be." — Hans Rosling, February 2017.

David and Goliath – Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants by Malcolm Gladwell

Malcolm Gladwell, the #1 bestselling author of *The Tipping Point*, *Blink*, *Outliers*, and *What the Dog Saw*, offers his most provocative---and dazzling---book yet.

Three thousand years ago on a battlefield in ancient Palestine, a shepherd boy felled a mighty warrior with nothing more than a stone and a sling, and ever since then the names of David and Goliath have stood for battles between underdogs and giants. David's victory was improbable and miraculous. He *shouldn't have won*.

Or should he have?

In *David and Goliath*, Malcolm Gladwell challenges how we think about obstacles and disadvantages, offering a new interpretation of what it means to be discriminated against, or cope with a disability, or lose a parent, or attend a mediocre school, or suffer from any number of other apparent setbacks.

Gladwell begins with the *real story of what happened between the giant and the shepherd boy those many years ago*. From there, *David and Goliath* examines Northern Ireland's Troubles, the minds of cancer researchers and civil rights leaders, murder and the high costs of revenge, and the dynamics of successful and unsuccessful classrooms---all to demonstrate how much of what is beautiful and important in the world arises from what looks like suffering and adversity.

In the tradition of Gladwell's previous bestsellers---*The Tipping Point*, *Blink*, and *Outliers* ---*David and Goliath* draws upon history, psychology, and powerful storytelling to reshape the way we think of the world around us.

10 Summaries

Both books have chapters and introductions. *David and Goliath* has an afterward that could be used to create a summary. Depending on which book you are working with, there will be 2–3 sections that are not included in your summaries. This is fine. You will need to choose a total of 10 sections to summarize. You can leave out any section(s) you choose. Keep in mind, however, that you will be responsible for all the information in the book for the beginning of the year assessment project.

10 Quotations/Response Chart

Select and type 10 quotations from your chosen book; ellipses may be used for longer quotations. —Note the page number(s) from which the quotations came in parentheses, and write a brief response to each. Quotations selected may be central to the author’s arguments, imaginative or particularly memorable illustrations, or anything else that stands out to you as relevant or essential to the effectiveness of the passage. Write a response (minimum 4–6 sentences) for each quoted passage that demonstrates intellectual engagement with the text. **Do not simply restate the quote in your own words; draw conclusions, make inferences, and contextualize the quote within the larger argument in the text. The quotes need to be reasonably well distributed throughout the book. All quotes should not come from the first half of the book, for example.**

Quotation	Thoughtful Response
Text from book (you may use ellipses for longer quotes) – do not forget the page number	4-6 sentence discussion of the effect and/or importance of the quote. Use the text above for ideas on how to address a quote. This should be concise and well-stated. This is not a journal entry, but a commentary of astute observations.

We look forward to reading about and to talking to you about your reading. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to talk to us before the end of the school year. Again, during the summer, feel free to email your AP Language and Composition teacher for questions and clarifications.

A Note About Academic Honesty

There are plenty of so-called “shortcuts” to reading books that are frequently used in academic institutions. There will always be a market for notes, summaries, broken down basics of any book worth reading. While these summaries may provide the information from the book to you, there simply is no substitute for actually reading the book. It is essential to accomplished reading ability that you become instinctually aware of how an author builds an argument, one step at a time, constructing one idea before using it to illustrate another, that depends on the assertion produced before that and then supports the statements that come after.

All writing you submit must be your own work. You may not plagiarize words or ideas from other websites or use AI (Artificial Intelligence). Any writing that is flagged as 10% or more AI will need to be redone in the presence of your teacher to earn credit. Include the following certification at the top of your submission to indicate your work is your own: *On my honor, I pledge that all work was created **WITHOUT** the use of Chat GPT or other Artificial Intelligence websites.*

Checklist for Summer Work 2025

- ___ Choose and obtain one of the books listed in this assignment.
- ___ Summarize 10 of the chapters from the book.
- ___ Choose and write responses to 10 quotations from the book.
- ___ Be ready to submit all work in a single document on Friday, August 15th
- ___ Study for Assessment Project over your Book the week of August 14th

**** Feel free to email Mrs. Braden or Mr. Larkin with any questions ****