

# English 12: 2018-2019 Summer Reading & Reflection



## 1. Choose **one** of the following summer reading options:

- *David & Goliath* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything* by Steven D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner
- *Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us* by Daniel Pink
- *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal* by Eric Schlosser
- *We Are Americans: Undocumented Immigrants Pursuing the American Dream* by William Perez & Daniel G. Solorzano
- *The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains* by Nicolas Carr

## 2. **Read and annotate** your chosen book. Annotation means:

- Highlighting words/sentences/parts of paragraphs that jump out at you because they contain interesting or compelling information or ideas. Some people like to color code. For example:
  - Blue = names / places / dates (Who/Where/When)
  - Yellow = important events (What *happened*?)
  - Pink = compelling ideas / questions / theories / findings
- Responding to your highlighted excerpts by writing (concisely) your thoughts in the margins:
  - Why does it matter?
  - What questions does it raise?
  - With what other ideas/concepts does it connect?

## 3. **Compose** 3 brief essays connecting concepts and topics from your book to the Grad at Grad traits.

- Recall the 5 Grad at Grad traits, and what each one means:
  - Intellectually Competent
  - Open to Growth
  - Loving
  - Religious
  - Committed to Justice
- Consider three important concepts (ideas, themes, arguments, problems, questions, or solutions) presented in your chosen book. These should be things that really made an impression upon you--ideas and concepts that made you think.
- Explore the connection between three compelling concepts in the book and three different Grad at Grad traits. Explain how each concept relates, somehow, to one of the traits. You might point out how the idea or concept:
  - *Demonstrates* a way of living out the trait
  - *Presents an obstacle* to living out the trait
  - *Invites* one to a new way of thinking about the trait
- For each of the three concepts, compose an MLA-formatted, double spaced reflection between 400 and 500 words in which you:
  - Briefly summarize the concept presented by the author(s) of your book. You must include at least one brief but relevant quote. (You should cite the page number MLA style.)
  - Concisely explain the connection between each concept and one of the Grad at Grad traits.

**See Important Notes on the Next Page**

## NOTES & GRADING

- Your annotations will be checked, and worth 25 points. They should be substantial and consistent.
- Each of the three 400-500-word reflections will be worth 25 points. See rubric below. Each must be:
  - Properly MLA-formatted (heading, 12-point Times New Roman, double spaced, multiple pages stapled).
  - **Printed in hard copy (on paper)**
  - Written in “opinion editorial” (op-ed) style with a “semi-formal” tone. That is, you may use first-person pronouns (I, me, etc.), but you should avoid slang or an overly casual tone. Think newspaper editorial, not academic thesis.
  - Complete and in class on the first day of classes. Late/incomplete assignments will be penalized.
  - Your reflections will serve as the foundation of a graded Socratic Seminar discussion. If you do well with your reflections, you will be well-equipped to tackle the Seminar discussion question.

<b>Essay Grading Rubric</b>	Poor	Weak	Average	Strong	Exceptional
<b>Content</b>  <i>Substance, accuracy, and relevance of what you've written.</i>	2	4	6	8	10
<b>Expression</b>  <i>Correct &amp; effective grammar, sentence structure, and paragraph structure.</i>	2	4	6	8	10
<b>Format</b>  <i>Adherence to MLA-standard heading, font, spacing, and citation techniques.</i>	1	2	3	4	5