

## AP English 11 Summer Reading Instructions

For all of the following work, please practice your best skills in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure.

### Book 1—

Thoughtfully read the chapters listed below from *On Writing Well, 30th Anniversary Edition: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction* by William Zinsser and complete the assigned work.

Read each of the chapters listed below. On paper, list each chapter title, and record the following information for each:

1. In a word or phrase, what is the main focus of this chapter?
2. What were you meant to learn from this chapter? Record your answer in list or outline form.
3. Go back to what you wrote for #2 and highlight or circle something that you want to make sure to put into practice.

Part I: Chapter 1 The Transaction

Part I: Chapter 2 Simplicity

Part I: Chapter 3 Clutter

Part I: Chapter 4 Style

Part I: Chapter 5 The Audience

Part I: Chapter 6 Words

Part I: Chapter 7 Usage

Part II: Chapter 10 Bits & Pieces

Part III: Chapter 11 Nonfiction as Literature

Part IV: Chapter 20 The Sound of Your Voice

Part IV: Chapter 21 Enjoyment, Fear and Confidence

Part IV: Chapter 22 The Tyranny of the Final Product

Part IV: Chapter 23 A Writer's Decision

Part IV: Chapter 24 Write as Well as You Can

### Book 2—

Thoughtfully read *Blink* by Malcolm Gladwell and respond to the following questions.

## Summer Reading Analysis Questions for *Blink*

### *Introduction- The Statue That Didn't Look Right*

1. Explain the Iowa experiment- Highlight the two things did researchers find about how our brains make sense of certain situations?
2. What is the adaptive unconscious? How does he metaphorically explain this?
3. What are the three tasks of Blink?

### *Chapter 1-The Theory of Thin Slices: how a Little Bit of Knowledge Goes a Long Way*

4. What is "thin slicing"?
5. What emotion does John Gottman consider the most important of all when looking at marriages and their stability?

6. Wendy Levinson's research has some powerful outcomes for doctors and patient confidence- what did she find?

#### *Chapter Two-The Locked Door: The Secret Life of Snap Decisions*

7. What is "priming"? Provide a detailed explanation and examples.
8. Describe and explain the Iyengar/Fisman study. What did it reveal?

#### *Chapter Three-The Warren Harding Error: Why We Fall for the Tall, Dark and Handsome Men?*

9. What was so likeable about Warren Harding? Did he end up living up to the public's expectations as a president?
10. What does Gladwell mean when he states -- "Part of what it means to take thin-slicing and first impressions seriously is accepting the fact that we know more about someone or something in the blink of an eye than we can after months of study. But we also have to acknowledge and understand those circumstances when rapid cognition leads us astray"?
11. With the IAT (Implicit Association Test), what does the research say about how we make connections?
12. What two things does the IAT measure regarding our attitude?

#### *Chapter Four- Paul Van Riper's Big Victory: Creating Structure for Spontaneity*

13. What is "verbal overshadowing"? Give an example.
14. According to Gladwell, what is the difference between a "math or logic problem" and an "insight problem"?
15. In the section called "When Less is More," Gladwell says that "extra information" can actually be "harmful." What support for this idea has he provided in the chapter?
16. What are the two important lessons Gladwell would like the reader to take from this chapter? What do they mean?

#### *Chapter Five- Kenna's Dilemma: The Right-and Wrong- Way to Ask People What They Want*

17. Herman Miller spent millions of dollars and countless hours creating the perfect chair, when it turned out the focus groups were not impressed- what were Millers three choices? What did he decide? What was the result?
18. What "is true of everything we call ugly"?
19. Do you believe our unconscious reactions come out of a locked room that we can't ever truly see inside? Can we ever know ourselves wholly and understand the motivation and reason behind our every move? Explain.
20. How do "experts" deal with the "locked room"?

#### *Chapter Six- Seven Seconds in the Bronx: The Delicate Art of Mind Reading*

21. According to Gladwell, the Diallo shooting is an example of a mind-reading failure. Explain.
22. What is rapid cognition? Provide a detailed explanation and example.
23. What is a "mind-blindness"?

24. Gladwell shares Dave Grossman's theory that "the range in which stress improves performance—is when our heart rate is between 115 and 145 beats per minute." What, according to Grossman, happens when our heart rate is over 145 beats per minute? Explain in detail.
25. Respond or record your thoughts on the following statement "Three of the major race riots in this country over the past quarter of a century have been caused by what cops did at the end of a chase."

*Conclusion- Listening With Your Eyes: The Lessons of Blink*

26. What happened after Abby was chosen for the orchestra? How did the conductor react? What was the outcome?
27. What did the orchestra do when they were confronted with their prejudice?
28. What does Gladwell say about controlling our unconscious?

*Afterward*

29. All in all, what does Gladwell believe is the best answer to using your instincts and when to rely on conscious analysis?
30. What is Gladwell's "goal" for *Blink*?