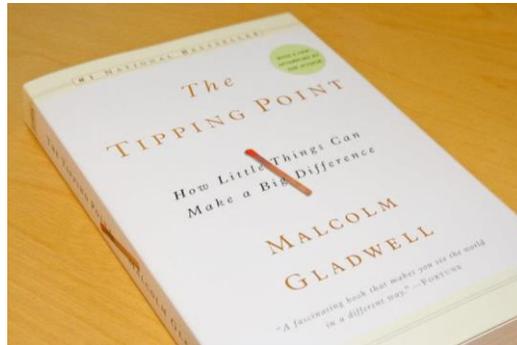


In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become life-long learners.

Dual Credit English Summer Reading and Assignment



Your summer reading for Dual Credit English is the bestseller *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell. It is not the typical book you read for an English class, but I think you will find that it is valuable and engaging. Gladwell will challenge you to connect events and trends that you have previously seen as unconnected. He also argues that small changes can have a major impact on outcomes. He writes:

The Tipping Point is the biography of an idea, and the idea is very simple. It is that the best way to understand the emergence of fashion trends, the ebb and flow of crime waves, or, for that matter, the transformation of unknown books into bestsellers, or the rise of teenage smoking or the phenomena of word of mouth, or any number of other mysterious changes that mark everyday life is to think of them as epidemics. Ideas and products and messages and behaviors spread just like viruses do. (Gladwell 7)

Gladwell, Malcolm. *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*. Boston: Little, Brown, 2000.

Assignment:

In addition to reading *The Tipping Point*, write a reader response for each chapter in a journal format. Include the following for each entry:

- A specific application of the concept(s) in the chapter to your life, current events, history, or other issues, using direct evidence from the chapter.

Each entry should be a half page of double-spaced 12-point type. It will be due the first week of class.

In addition, you will be required to have your own copies the following books:

- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury – any edition
- *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde – any edition
- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster – any edition 2003 or later

- *Arguing About Literature* by John Schlib and John Clifford – *You may use the first edition (ISBN 978-1-4576-6209-6) or the second edition (ISBN 978-1-319-03532-7). Do not buy the abbreviated version. The book should be more than 1,000 pages. This is a primary text for the Spring semester of the class, so if you choose to rent it, you will only need to rent it in the Spring. If you know one of my current students, you might be able to get the book from them for a lower cost. This textbook is not optional.*
- *Inferno* by Dante (*You need the John Ciardi translation.*)
- *behind the beautiful forevers* by Katherine Boo

I look forward to seeing you in the fall. Have a great summer.

Mrs. Nelson – Room 2301
mlnelson@conroeisd.net