



## Summer Reading: DLI Statistics and Big Data

This summer all students who wish to take DLI Statistics and Big Data will need to purchase and read: Outliers: The Story of Success by Malcolm Gladwell. The book will be a fascinating introduction into the use of statistical analysis in seemingly unorthodox venues that leads to surprisingly lucid and well developed answers to questions that people have thought about, but have never tried to answer thoroughly. Malcolm Gladwell does a fine job of making the reading interesting, but he does not sacrifice the rigor of proper statistical analysis just to try and make a point. On the contrary, it is precisely his rigor and willingness to pursue data that makes this such a fascinating read.

The book is available in almost any bookstore and it is available at Amazon as well. Here is the site for the book on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/Outliers-Story-Success-Malcolm-Gladwell/dp/0316017930>

Regardless of where you buy it, the read will open your mind to the many possibilities for the reach of data and it should show you that very few topics, if given the time and energy necessary to collect proper data, are outside the realm of statistical research.

Answer the following question after reading the book: (2-3 pages typed, single spaced, size 12 font)

1. The central premise of the book is that 10,000 hours of work at a skill will separate those who will be successful in a field from those who are just innately talented. Do you agree or disagree? Please cite reasons and arguments that you find from chapters of the book or other sources. If you use other sources, please cite them and give them credit for their ideas.

Please answer two of the following three questions: (Same instructions as question 1 from above)

1. Which chapter or portion of the book did you feel most strongly about, whether you agreed or disagreed? Please be specific in your comments and be sure to explain why you felt the way you did.
2. From Part 2 of the book entitled Legacy, what story did you find most compelling and why? Was the research done legitimate science or is this merely interesting observation?

3. Is there a part of this book that would lead you to want to do further research? If so, what is that part and what is field that you think you would like to research? Is there data for the field you want to research? Try to find it if possible and please go through the genesis of your search, whether it was successful or not.

The three essays are due the first day of school and will serve as a catalyst for our journey into statistics and big data. Enjoy the book and please feel free to contact me at [karl.schwoerke@woosterschool.org](mailto:karl.schwoerke@woosterschool.org) or call me at 860-690-2337 if you are having trouble with the assignment.