

## English IV AP/Dual Credit Summer Assignment 2026

Next school year, you will be thinking, researching, and writing about issues ranging from the local to the global. Your summer reading assignment will help you begin to critically think about and evaluate the world in which you live.

**Please note: there are 4 parts to this assignment, and each part contains multiple tasks. Read all of the instructions carefully before you begin.**

You will need to purchase the following books:

- *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban* by Malala Yousafzai with Christina Lamb (you do **not** want the abridged or young readers edition)
- *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness* by Simon Wiesenthal with responses from... (read the full story and all responses)

Parts 1-3 of this assignment revolve around the autobiography of Malala Yousafzai. As you have learned, there are several ways to read and interpret a text. While we can and do read Malala's autobiography as an inspirational life story, we can also read it as the narrative of the birth of a leader – a young woman thrust onto the world stage to speak out for the human rights of every child, both male and female, in the world. Thus, leadership is the context within which you will read *I Am Malala*.

### → Part 1: Before You Read *I Am Malala*

- ◆ Type (Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced) a two-page reflection essay (intro, thesis, body, and conclusion) that discusses your definition and understanding of leadership. Be specific. Provide concrete examples from both your personal experiences and the knowledge you have relating to this concept. Because you are reflecting, you can use 1st person "I," but do not overuse it. Do *not* use 2nd person "you."
- ◆ Read and annotate the essay "[Malala Leadership Essay Narrative](#)" by Mary Buckley (take note of the different leadership theories discussed)
- ◆ Watch and take handwritten notes over the YouTube video entitled: "[Malala Yousafzai Story: The Pakistani Girl Shot in Taliban Attack | The New York Times](#)" (also available on the NYT website: "[Class Dismissed: The Death of Female Education](#)" by Adam B. Ellick and Irfan Ashraf). As you watch this video (~32 minutes), take handwritten notes, especially focusing on the concept of leadership as demonstrated by this young woman.

→ **Part 2: As You Read *I Am Malala***

- ◆ Evaluate Malala in terms of leadership theories. Look for examples from Malala’s autobiography that pair with the leadership traits and styles found in the Mary Buckley essay.

(from The Global Women’s Institute at The George Washington University)

- ◆ Find textual evidence of at least 5 examples of leadership directly from the autobiography. Pair one quote with one leadership theory. Fully explain each example and how it pairs with the particular leadership theory. Be sure to discuss more than one leadership theory. Give appropriate page numbers for each quote. Organization is up to you, but it should be typed (Times New Roman, 12 point font).

→ **Part 3: After You Read *I Am Malala***

- ◆ Read and annotate “[Nobel Lecture](#)” by Malala Yousafzai.
- ◆ During the first week of classes, you will have an essay test in response to your reading and research over all of the Malala materials – Buckley essay, NYT documentary, *I Am Malala*, and the Nobel Lecture.

Please familiarize yourself with the MLA format, as it will be expected on the written essay. You will need to handwrite all MLA formatting expectations.

→ **Part 4: Prep for Discussion**

- ◆ Read and annotate *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness* by Simon Wiesenthal
  - In this book, a concentration camp survivor recaps an event from his life during his internment. He then poses a provocative question to all readers.
- ◆ You will have an assignment over this text during the first week of classes.

**Bring all documents for in-person submission on the first day of class:**

1. *I Am Malala* pre-reading reflection (from part 1)
2. *I Am Malala* leadership examples with quotes (from part 2)
3. Handwritten notes and annotations as directed in parts 1, 2, and 3 (for use on the essay test)
4. *The Sunflower* annotations/notes