

Malcolm Gladwell, *Outliers: The Story of Success*. Read chapters 6, 8-9, and the Epilogue.

1. What implications do the University of Michigan experiments on propensity for aggression have for free will? If culture influences behavior—as was the case for Southerners in these studies—does that mean that people lack free will?
2. According to Malcolm Gladwell, what is the connection between growing up in a culture that historically cultivated rice paddies and students' performance on math tests?
3. If Malcolm Gladwell is right about what predicts math performance, how could someone use that information to improve their skills? Suppose someone did just that. What would then be explaining success—culture? Free will? Both? Neither? Explain your answer.
4. Why does the KIPP program succeed? What is the “bargain” that its students strike?