Topic:

In Outliers, Malcolm Gladwell offers several instances where individuals and companies were able to recover from setbacks and continue toward their goals for success. He uses examples of pilots and air traffic controllers being hindered by “mitigated speech” and “power distance index” relationships to show how Airline companies improved their communication skills to provide safer flying conditions.

The examples provided by Gladwell and others show that individuals do have the ability to overcome obstacles, whether they are imposed by the individual’s culture or other factors, by being accountable for their own success in spite of challenges and setbacks. Some of the strategies offered for overcoming obstacles to success are persistence, focused practice, and identifying work that is satisfying (offers “autonomy, complexity, and a connection between effort and reward”).

WRITING ASSIGNMENT:

Identify three strategies for overcoming obstacles in the “road to success.” Clearly identify and explain each strategy and provide at least two instances of support from Outliers.