



CHESTERTON ACADEMY

OF ORLANDO

Integrated Writing Program

Multi-Faceted Approach

The Importance of the Great Books

- Plato argues that the essence of art is imitation. This means that you can't become a great writer unless you read great writing!

The Importance of Socratic Discussion

- Aristotle argues that the primary purpose of writing is to prove your point. This means that it is difficult to learn how to write without cultivating a habit of discussion. To put it another way, it is difficult to prove your point if you aren't in the habit of discussing beautiful things daily!

The Importance of Beauty

- Great writing is inspired by beauty. Socrates argues that the unexamined life is not worth living. This means that you can't become a great writer unless you have something to say! It also means that the ultimate purpose of writing is to lead others to the truth. To do this, it is necessary to cultivate a sense for the true, the good, and the beautiful. As it were, it is this sense for the true, good, and beautiful, which is the mark of a judicious writer. Meanwhile, the wise man is the one who is inebriated with beautiful songs, poems, and images.

The Importance of Practice

- Learning how to write isn't just about practice. Without practice, however, it's impossible to become a good writer! That's why students at Chesterton write more than almost anyone else (see Four Year Overview below).

Four Year Overview

Freshman Year

Literature

- Intro to Essay Writing: Invention, Organization (Arrangement), and Style (Elocution)
- 1–2 Major Essays per Semester (typically 2–3 pages each)
IEW-Style Key Word Outline » Rough Draft » Final Draft

Theology, Philosophy, and History

- Biweekly Graded Written Homework and/or Graded Written Exams and/or 1 Major Essay per Semester
- Intro to Logic: Defining Your Terms, Deductive Reasoning, Inductive Reasoning, and Logical Fallacies

Grammar and Syntax

- Intro to Grammar: Parts of Speech, Parts of the Sentence, Phrases, and Clauses
- Application of the Principles of Grammar via Diagramming
- Intro to Style: Verbosity, Redundancy, and Irrelevancy
- Application of the Principles of Style via IEW-Style Dress-Ups

Language

- Application of the Principles of Grammar

Science

- Intro to Scientific Writing
- 1–2 Major Lab Reports Second Semester

Sophomore Year

Literature

- Essay Writing Recap: Invention, Organization (Arrangement), and Style (Elocution)
- 1–2 Major Essays per Semester (typically 2–4 pages each)
IEW-Style Key Word Outline » Rough Draft » Final Draft

Theology, Philosophy, and History

- Biweekly Graded Written Homework and/or Graded Written Exams and/or 1 Major Essay per Semester
- Application of the Principles of Logic

Rhetoric (Speech and Debate)

- Intro to Rhetoric: Ethos, Pathos, Logos
- 1–2 Major Speeches

Language

- Application of the Principles of Grammar

Science

- Scientific Writing Recap
- 1–2 Major Lab Reports per Semester
- Science Fair Project

Junior Year

Literature

- 1–2 Major Essays per Semester (typically 3–5 pages each)

Theology, Philosophy, and History

- Biweekly Graded Written Homework and/or Graded Written Exams and/or 1 Major Essay per Semester
- Application of the Principles of Logic

College Knowledge and CLT Prep

- Application of the Principles of Grammar
- Application of the Principles of Rhetoric

Language

- Application of the Principles of Grammar
- Application of the Principles of Rhetoric

Science

- 1–2 Major Lab Reports per Semester
- Science Fair Project

Senior Year

Literature

- 1–2 Major Essays per Semester (typically 3–5 pages each)

Theology, Philosophy, History, and Civics

- Biweekly Graded Written Homework and/or Graded Written Exams and/or 1 Major Essay per Semester
- Application of the Principles of Logic

Senior Thesis (Senior Capstone)

- Senior Thesis Project (typically 8–12 pages)

Language

- Application of the Principles of Grammar
- Application of the Principles of Rhetoric

Science

- 1–2 Major Lab Reports per Semester
- Science Fair Project