



SCHOLÉ ACADEMY

CLASSICAL ACADEMIC PRESS

**Writing and Rhetoric Year 4 -
Book 7: *Encomium & Vituperation* / Book 8: *Comparison*
2019-2020**

Prerequisites: Mastery of the concepts taught in Writing & Rhetoric Year 3; on grade level reading fluency; developing knowledge of the argumentative essay

Course Description:

This course is designed for 6th–8th graders who want to develop their writing skills using the imitation and practice method contained in the Writing & Rhetoric series published by Classical Academic Press. Students will study with *Encomium & Vituperation* and *Comparison* the seventh and eighth books of the Writing & Rhetoric series.

An encomium is a short essay in praise of someone or something; a vituperation is an essay in which one criticizes something to show its faults. An encomium praises virtue, and a vituperation blames vice. During the first semester, students will learn how to craft essays of praise and blame, focusing on the following skills: discerning the main idea; utilizing hyperbole and thesis; incorporating background and supportive detail, biography, and autobiography; noting the good and poor qualities present in a person or event; contrasting virtuous behavior and vice; and crafting effective conclusions that encourage readers either to emulate virtue or eschew vice.

In the second semester, building on the skills learned studying encomium and vituperation, students will develop the art of comparison, learning how to craft a comparative composition that sets two persons, events, ideas, texts, or objects side by side for assessment. In this exercise, students may either offer praise of two things paired together, or praise one while criticizing the other. In learning this art of comparison, students will also study elements of critical analysis, assessment, and judgment.

This course will work to develop a love and hunger for writing in each student and will do so through engaging class sessions, creative assignments, and personal feedback. Students will also develop public speaking skills through short recitations and presentations.

Course Texts:

The required texts for the course are *Writing & Rhetoric: Encomium & Vituperation* and *Writing and Rhetoric: Comparison*, published by Classical Academic Press.

Student Expectations: This class aims to cultivate a communal love and exploration of story and writing. Class time will sometimes be spent reading aloud as a group, as well as sharing each student’s writing. Class participation will be required through discussion, writing, public speaking, and homework contained in the text. This course strives for the cultivation of virtue as well as knowledge.

Yearlong Tutoring: 32 weeks, 64 classes
Monday & Wednesday, 11:00 am EST

Instructor's name: Joanne Schinstock
Phone Number: 405-479-0399
Email Address: jschinstock@scholeacademy.com

Communication sent during the weekends/holidays are returned on the next school day. Please note calendar holidays.

If there is an issue or concern that requires discussion of details, please call me directly instead of email. Email is best suited for exchange of information. When in doubt, it is best to pick up a phone. In our frenetic times, it is convenient to send emails, but not always the best option for relationship building and problem solving.

Course Schedule **The pacing is subject to change to fit the needs of the class.*

August 28	Orientation (see Welcome Letter for details)
Sept 2	NO CLASS: LABOR DAY
Sept 4	First Class: Warm-up Week “Come to the Feast”
Sept 9-11	Reading & Writing Assessments/Introduction-Book 7/Student Presentations
Sept 16-18	Lesson 1
Sept 23-25	Lesson 2
Sept 30- Oct 2	Lesson 3
Oct 7-9	Lesson 4
Oct 14-16	Lesson 5
Oct 21-23	Lesson 6
Oct 28-30	Lesson 7
Nov 4-6	Lesson 8
Nov 11-13	Lesson 9
Nov 18-20	Lesson 10
Nov 25-27	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK
Dec 2-4	DIY Final 1 st Semester Essay Lesson 11
Dec 9-11	Complete Book 7 & Conclude with <i>Symposium Week</i> <i>(Advent Poetry Recitations/Dramatic Readings)</i>

Dec 16-Jan 3	CHRISTMAS BREAK/NEW YEAR’S BREAK
Jan 6-8	Review Book 7: Lesson 12
Jan 13-15	Lesson 13: 7 steps multi-paragraph research paper
Jan 20-22	Lesson 14: Sources & Citations
Jan 27-29	Your First Biography
Feb 3-5	Research Outline
Feb 10-12	Notecards
Feb 17-21	WINTER BREAK/NO CLASS

Feb 24-26	*Research Paper due: Student Presentations/Lesson 1(Book 8)
Mar 2-4	Lesson 2
Mar 9-11	Lesson 3
Mar 16-18	Lesson 4
Mar 23-25	Lesson 5
Mar 30-Apr 1	Lesson 6
Apr 6-8	EASTER/HOLY WEEK/NO CLASS
Apr 13-15	Lesson 7
Apr 20-22	Lesson 8
Apr 27-29	Lesson 9
May 4-6	Lesson 10
May 11-13	Symposium Practice/Self Assessment
May 18-20	<i>Spring Symposium</i> /last week

***In case of circumstantial cancellation (illness, family emergency, etc...), I will plan to get a substitute, records a makeup session, or provide an alternative assignment in lieu of class that day.**

****This year WR4 students will write a research paper. The schedule currently marks 6 weeks for this project. Pacing will vary depending upon class progress.**

Please review the Scholé Academy Academic calendar for important dates. Remember September 16th is the last day to add/drop fall semester/yearlong courses unless provisional enrollment is determined during the enrollment process.

Students will be expected to keep as a record weekly lesson plans posted on Schoology. These plans describe in detail the lesson objectives, class activities, homework assignments, upcoming due dates for projects, and other pertinent information. Students should review these lesson plans each week prior to class in order to manage their learning objectives and writing assignments. A good way to keep track is to print and keep stored in course binder. Students are expected to write in their Writing & Rhetoric textbook and should keep a notebook for “commonplacing”—writing quotes, interesting passages and any thoughts related to the passage. We will incorporate our ‘*memoria*’ exercises into our commonplace notebook.

Evaluation Procedures and Grading Criteria

Teachers will often assign the following grades based on students’ level of achievement: *magna cum laude* (with great praise), *cum laude* (with praise), *satis* (sufficient, satisfactory), and *non satis* (not sufficient). Ideally, every average student working diligently should do praiseworthy work (*cum laude*). Those who excel beyond this expectation will be the *magna cum laude* students. Students who do adequate but not praiseworthy work should be designated *satis*. *Non satis* means lacking sufficiency or adequacy. These assessments are not mere grading instruments but ways for both the student and the instructor to assess mastery. Students will receive written feedback on each essay. These graded essays, including instructor feedback, should be kept as a portfolio of their academic progress over the course of the year. The written feedback will be referred to as the **narrative grade**. **If students need to complete a college transcript with either a numeric or letter grade, they will need to notify the teacher in advance so she can provide a traditional grade accordingly upon request at the end of the course.** Please review the Student-Parent Handbook for policy regarding traditional grades. Parents are the final authority on traditional grades.

As noted in the Student-Parent Handbook, the instructor and student with Scholé Academy pursue together the path of virtue and wisdom. Keeping that in mind, each student must strive to cultivate habits of **patience, constancy, temperance** and other virtues that ideally raise a student from a *satis* level to a *cum laude* and even *magna cum laude* level of mastery. As such the instructor expects students to:

- **Arrive on time for class** (Students who are late must catch up to the pace of that day which can cause

confusion and setback for the student and interrupt the restful learning of others online. The instructor will not review material that day for a tardy student. Once a student views the recorded session, she should contact the instructor for assistance on core concepts if needed.) ***It is best for a family not to enroll their student in a course in which he or she will have to miss more than 6 classes.*** (See *Student-Parent Handbook*). ***All classes will be recorded and available for viewing for student absences. Recordings are not meant to replace a live class.***

- **Complete work on time** in preparation for discussion to enkindle curiosity and zeal as a member of the learning community. (All assignments will be reviewed by the instructor and considered late after the due date. The instructor requires assignments submitted before class begins. **Late assignments will not receive credit beyond one week.**) Students should plan ahead for scheduled absences and ask for extensions when conflicts arise.
- **Listen and contribute to class discussion respectfully** by practicing **humility** and **love** as we delight in seeking to cultivate “affection and taste” for truth, goodness and beauty.

In general, tardiness, speaking over others, forgetting assignments, submitting assignments completed in a rush, poor penmanship, and ultimately encountering the task of learning with a passive attitude do not typify *restful* learning. As members of Scholé Academy we are responsible for how our attitudes and affections influence the learning community.

Please remember restful learning consists of accurate expectations, accurate preparation, and accurate attitude.—Joelle Hodge, principal of Scholé Academy

A word about Reading Fluency Assessments. Reading fluency along with writing and speaking will be assessed the first full week of class. These assessments help the instructor understand more fully the content and skill level of all incoming students. These assessments are administered within the first two weeks allowing course enrollment adjustments in some cases.

Student Presentation—(1st full week of class)

The first full week of school, students will be asked to present a 2-minute brief introduction about themselves using objects. In order to prepare for this assignment, students will need to read: “What Objects Tell the Story of Your life?” (New York Times) and “Object Lessons in History” (New York Times). These two brief articles will help set up the student for his/her presentation. Details will be explained, and article links provided during orientation week. As the art of elocution is a skill introduced in previous levels of the series, students will be asked to give a brief presentation as a preliminary public speaking assessment.

On the “classroom” environment: My commitment to you ...

“Augustine described education as essentially teaching students to “love that which is lovely,” following on Plato’s idea that affections and taste must be cultivated.” (Student-Parent Handbook) As your instructor, I will endeavor to model and foster virtues of successful learning, including love, humility, patience, constancy, perseverance, and temperance. (See “**My Philosophy of Education**”)

The Virtual Classroom:

Scholé Academy uses free online “virtual classroom” software provided by Zoom, one of the leading companies that provides such software. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video, and other media can be displayed and analyzed. Once enrolled, student will be emailed a link that will enable them to join the virtual classroom.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting www.ClassicalAcademicPress.com.

A final word...Students with questions or concerns not addressed in this course syllabus are invited to contact me by phone. (**Direct line: 405-479-0399**; Weekday phone calls made after 3pm EST are typically

returned the next day. I return weekend calls on the next business day.)

“As we seek to recover and renew the scholé tradition of education, we know that we will misstep and veer from this path—after all we don’t know the path nearly as well as we would like. Still, we believe that finding and walking that path will be enriching to students, parents, and teachers. As we seek to recover the classical tradition of scholé, we welcome parental feedback and ideas about how we can better embody scholé in our online classes.” (Student-Parent Handbook)