



Equip Course Objectives

English Literature & Comp | 10 credits

In Emmaus Classical Academy's Equip course, students will engage in an in-depth study of form, content, and style to help them become fearless and capable writers. Through grammar exercises, dynamic readings and discussions of texts within the Great Books tradition, essay crafting, editing, and creative writing, Equip empowers students to communicate genuine, original thoughts and use their unique voice to participate in an ongoing academic and creative conversation about great ideas and great texts.

ECA's Equip class approaches training in writing through the classical stages of grammar, dialectic, and rhetoric. Examining first the units of thought through words and sentences, students will gain mastery of English grammar. Using ideas from discussion and reading, they will begin to form cogent, original thoughts through invention exercises and express them in paragraph and essay form. Students will then learn how to express ideas through theme in poetry, fiction, and other creative projects. We recommend that parents and independent study programs count this class as meeting the requirements for ten high school credits of English Composition and Literature.

Students who participate in Equip have the following objectives:

- To understand and articulate the basic principles of English grammar
- To properly employ a variety of sentence structures and wide-ranging vocabulary with denotative accuracy and connotative resourcefulness
- To build a wheelhouse of good writerly instincts
- To understand and practice writing as a process
- To articulate and produce sound, compelling, and logical arguments
- To engage literary material in multiple genres, demonstrating both comprehension and independent thought: clarifying, synthesizing, and concluding
- To produce arguments that properly balance abstract or general ideas with specific, illustrative detail
- To engage multiple perspectives with fairness and precision in reading, discussion, and writing
- To accurately represent the ideas of others and engage them in dialectical conversation, both in speech and in writing
- To demonstrate intellectual generosity and charity when engaging the ideas of others both in speech and in writing
- To make intentional and creative writerly choices that develop a sustainable, writerly voice
- To provide meaningful, accurate, and constructive feedback on the writing of peers

- To incorporate the feedback of peers and instructors in substantial revisions of writing assignments
- To develop the core writerly virtues of curiosity, humility, courage, and hospitality
- To demonstrate the frameworks that undergird all storytelling and learn how to use them to craft good, meaningful stories
- To examine the genres of comedy, tragedy, drama, longform fiction, and poetry and how storytelling occurs in each of them in different ways
- To build creative confidence and competence in a variety of forms and genres

To this end, Equip students will practice the act of writing in several forms, among them:

- Weekly short writing exercises as take home assignments: these will include grammatical exercises, theme explorations, argumentative essays, and creative exercises
- Weekly short writing exercises (Quick Takes) to continue the class discussion at home, answering a specific question arising from the class discussion
- Iterative assignments for the development of longer essays: essay brainstorms, evidence lists, thesis statements, outlines, drafts, and revision plans
- A first-semester term paper of roughly 1000 words
- A second-semester creative project of roughly 2000 words
- A self-reflection essay at the end of each semester to help students evaluate their writing habits and provide them with vision for growth
- Students will also organize a portfolio of their work at the end of each semester for presentation and evaluation