



GRACE & TRUTH
CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2025 Academic Year
Course Descriptions

Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW)

What is IEW?

IEW provides English writing courses which train students to become confident and competent communicators and thinkers.

Using the four language arts – listening, speaking, reading, and writing – IEW methods have been proven to be effective for students of all ages and levels of ability, including those who are gifted, have special needs, or are English language learners.*

Listen. Speak. Read. Write. Think!

IEW – Adventures in Writing (Grades 3–5)

‘Explore a wide variety of fascinating subjects in Adventures in Writing! In this theme-based writing curriculum, students write about adventurous topics such as Roman hoplites, tornadoes, Leif Eriksson, and other interesting subjects while they learn to write with the Structure and Style® writing method.’ (<https://iew.com/adventures-in-writing-student-book-only>)

Covering a years worth of instruction the lessons in this course cover seven of the nine IEW units namely, note making and outlines, writing from notes, retelling narrative stories, summarizing a reference, writing from pictures, summarizing multiple references and inventive writing. Time and attention are also given to proper punctuation, correct spelling and increasing vocabulary, all of which are paramount in learning to write proficiently.

“Adventures in Writing” is well suited for grade 3 learners or those new to IEW’s structure and style writing method.

Students will be given weekly writing assessments on a Friday and will need complete it during the week, unless indicated otherwise.

Required Student Workbook: IEW Adventures in Writing (Student Workbook)

IEW – Medieval History–Based Writing Lessons (Grades 6–10)

Knights, Vikings, kings, and famous men of the Middle Ages come to life as students embark on a writing adventure, being equipped with the necessary skills to improve their writing capabilities as well as to enjoy writing.

The Medieval History–Based Writing Lessons, written by Lori Verstegen, will enrich students' learning as we cover units 1–9 during the course of the year. Students begin by analysing and imitating existing good writing. Then through a series of incremental steps, they develop the ability to write their own original compositions. This writing course, aimed at grade 6–8 students, will have the students learn the IEW structural models of taking notes, retelling narrative stories, summarising references, writing from pictures, and summarising multiple references as well as inventive writing, formal essays and a formal critique. We will also cover stylistic techniques including, but not limited to, strong verbs, quality adjectives, and sentence openers. Students will gradually move from basic to a variety of sentence structures, improving their vocabulary and developing more sophisticated writing skills.

Course Credit: No credit for Middle School. If taken in conjunction with the English Worldview and Literature class, one honours credit for English for High School Students.

Class Time

In our weekly class the teacher will introduce concepts, work with the class to create a keyword outline (KWO) and help the students understand their assignment for the week. Students will hand in a Final Draft to be marked and edited by the teacher according to the checklist. They will then have a chance to polish their work.

What is expected at home?

Students will be expected to complete homework tasks each week and hand them in on time. Unless otherwise indicated, marking/editing of the homework will be done by the facilitator.

Required Student Workbook: IEW Medieval History–Based Writing Lessons 5th Edition