

SJC Homeschool Support

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS 2026-2027

ANCIENT HISTORY BASED WRITING LESSONS GRADES 5-8

Meets Mondays, 2:40pm -3:45pm

Class Fee: \$100 /per semester (or whatever you can afford)

PREREQUISITES

It is ideal for students to have a basic understanding of the following:

- parts of speech (nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections)
- basic structure of a sentence (expresses a complete thought; contains a subject and a predicate)

WORK LEVEL: moderate, approximately 1 hour per week. This may increase slightly as the year progresses.

DESCRIPTION: Following the Institute for Excellence in Writing program, (IEW) this class will explore how to write in a more sophisticated and interesting manner, using the popular IEW structure and style approach. Students will use a workbook, Ancient History Based Writing Lessons and use Ancient History as the basis for our writing projects. The curriculum has easy to use checklists, vocabulary lists, and more. Students will gain the skills to be able to write with confidence.

WORK REQUIRED: Weekly written homework assignments will be given and expected to be turned in the following week. Vocabulary will be incorporated into the course, and quizzes will be given on the vocabulary every few weeks.

ASSESSMENT: Each homework assignment will be graded based on the checklist provided with each assignment. The checklist allocates points for each of the

techniques we are practicing. Students will also receive grades for their vocabulary tests. An overall grade will be given at the end of each semester.

STUDENT PROVIDES: Paper and writing implements. The class fee covers the student books. Students will receive their books on the first day of class. .

PROFESSIONAL / TEACHING CREDENTIALS

Valerie Taccolini holds a bachelor's degree in French with a minor in Spanish. She is a currently certified Michigan Secondary Ed Teacher. Valerie has been teaching a variety of classes to home schoolers for the past 41 years, including homeschooling her own six children. She has taught Language Arts in the homeschool co-op environment for the past 13 years. Valerie loves language and literature and helping young adults learn to appreciate the value of eloquent and convincing writing. She hopes that her students will utilize these skills to help shape the culture around them to be more centered on Christ Jesus and His teachings. Valerie and her husband, Deacon Dave Taccolini, are members of St Thomas the Apostle parish in Ann Arbor.