2020-2021 Secondary Courses

Academic Enrichment Programs

Grade 7-9  Academic Writing I, II, III
Grade 7-9  Foundations of Argumentation, Speech, and Thought
Grade 7-9  Research, Rhetoric, Analysis, and Problem Solving
Grade 7-9  Mentorship
Grade 7-12 Public Speaking and Debate I, II, III
Grade 10-12 Writing, Discussion, and Thinking

US/UK/HK School Admissions
Please contact us to schedule an appointment or to receive more information.

info@capstoneprep.com  www.capstoneprep.com
2/F, One Hysan Avenue, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong  2893 6060 / 2893 6067
Grade 7-9 Academic Writing I

The Academic Writing program is designed to prepare Secondary students for the myriad of writing assignments as they transition from Primary school to challenging Secondary-level writing, to, eventually, college. Students learn the fundamental genre conventions necessary to write effectively within the persuasive, expository, descriptive, and fiction genres in the lower levels. At higher levels, students tackle increasingly complex forms of writing and the emphasis moves to developing their ideas and writing style. Through every level, the course ensures that students learn important writing habits that will serve them through the rest of their education and career. In addition, students expand their critical thinking by engaging with writing tasks through an analytical standpoint as opposed to rote learning of expected structures and conventions. Finally, reading is a large aspect of the course as students turn to reading to both gain a greater appreciation of what makes an effective text as well as to expand their vocabulary.

Perfect for students who:
- Are looking to hone their writing skills to bolster their grades at school and beyond
- Need a toolset to tackle any writing assignment confidently
- Struggle with organising their ideas
- Want to find ways to express themselves more eloquently and fluently in writing

Academic Writing I

In this course, student will
- Gain foundational exposure to the genre expectations of persuasive, expository, descriptive, and fiction writing
- Practice organizing their ideas in clear and effective 5-paragraph essays and within coherent paragraphs
- Learn essential descriptive techniques necessary to paint a vivid picture
- Consider story structure and characterization prior to composing their own stories
- Develop necessary research skills

Duration: 1.5 hrs | Class Size: 8 | Lesson Fee: $750 (In-person) | $600 (Online)

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Remarks:
Online lesson fee for Fall is offered on a special rate.
Application will be processed on a first-come-first-served basis.
Course schedule and fees are subject to change without advance notice.

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AYEP-2021-4
Grade 7-9 Academic Writing II

The Academic Writing program is designed to prepare Secondary students for the myriad of writing assignments as they transition from Primary school to challenging Secondary-level writing, to, eventually, college. Students learn the fundamental genre conventions necessary to write effectively within the persuasive, expository, descriptive, and fiction genres in the lower levels. At higher levels, students tackle increasingly complex forms of writing and the emphasis moves to developing their ideas and writing style. Through every level, the course ensures that students learn important writing habits that will serve them through the rest of their education and career. In addition, students expand their critical thinking by engaging with writing tasks through an analytical standpoint as opposed to rote learning of expected structures and conventions. Finally, reading is a large aspect of the course as students turn to reading to both gain a greater appreciation of what makes an effective text as well as to expand their vocabulary.

Perfect for students who:
- Are looking to hone their writing skills to bolster their grades at school and beyond
- Need a toolset to tackle any writing assignment confidently
- Struggle with organising their ideas
- Want to find ways to express themselves more eloquently and fluently in writing

Academic Writing II

In this course, student will
- Consistently implement the genre expectations of persuasive, expository, descriptive, and fiction writing
- Confidently organize their ideas in clear and effective 5-paragraph essays and within coherent paragraphs
- Consider the effectiveness of the descriptive techniques they use when drafting and revising
- Evaluate fiction written by others to compose their own stories more compellingly
- Hone their research skills to be more efficient and effective

Duration: 1.5 hrs | Class Size: 8 | Lesson Fee: $750 (In-person) | $600 (Online)

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Grade 7-9 Academic Writing III

The Academic Writing program is designed to prepare Secondary students for the myriad of writing assignments as they transition from Primary school to challenging Secondary-level writing, to, eventually, college. Students learn the fundamental genre conventions necessary to write effectively within the persuasive, expository, descriptive, and fiction genres in the lower levels. At higher levels, students tackle increasingly complex forms of writing and the emphasis moves to developing their ideas and writing style. Through every level, the course ensures that students learn important writing habits that will serve them through the rest of their education and career. In addition, students expand their critical thinking by engaging with writing tasks through an analytical standpoint as opposed to rote learning of expected structures and conventions. Finally, reading is a large aspect of the course as students turn to reading to both gain a greater appreciation of what makes an effective text as well as to expand their vocabulary.

Perfect for students who:
- Are looking to hone their writing skills to bolster their grades at school and beyond
- Need a toolset to tackle any writing assignment confidently
- Struggle with organising their ideas
- Want to find ways to express themselves more eloquently and fluently in writing

Academic Writing III

In this course, student will
- Employ the necessary genre conventions within more nuanced and targeted writing assignments
- Learn more complex forms of writing within the four standard genres taught at Capstone
- Evaluate their own work and the work of others for greater efficacy
- Use their literary analysis skills in order to inform their own descriptive and fiction writing
- Fine-tune their writing habits to allow for greater consistency and independence

**Duration:** 1.5 hrs | **Class Size:** 8 | **Lesson Fee:** $750 (In-person) | $600 (Online)

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- Course schedule and fees are subject to change without advance notice.
Grade 7-9 Foundations of Argumentation, Speech, and Thought (FAST)

The Foundations of Argumentation, Speech, and Thought (FAST) course introduces students to foundation-level critical thinking and presentation skills. Students will gain useful world knowledge and hone their analytical abilities by applying them to Capstone-created case studies and authentic sources such as The New York Times and the BBC. In addition to gaining analytical abilities, students will apply those skills to an oral presentation at the end of the lesson. Students who have completed our FAST program are positioned to confidently participate in more discussion-heavy school classes, progress into the world of debate or delve deeper into critical thinking with our Mentorship program.

Perfect for students who:
- Hope to improve their analytical, deductive, and creative thinking
- Wish to widen their world knowledge in a comfortable environment
- Are looking to add more compelling structure and substance to their arguments
- Need practice with public speaking and would like to gain more confidence

FAST (Grade 7-9)
in this course, students will
- Encounter increasingly complex situations and scenarios to analyze
- Learn to see issues through various perspectives by considering stakeholders
- Get training on important presentation skills and practice those skills regular
- Develop confidence with both prepared and impromptu speeches

Duration: 1.5 hrs | Class Size: 8 | Lesson Fee: $750 (In-person) | $600 (Online)

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Grade 7-9 Research, Rhetoric, Analysis and Problem-Solving (RRAPS)

At the Secondary level, the RRAPS course will continue to have students tackle increasingly complex topics. With a heavy discussion component, the course will build on students’ critical reading/media analysis, argument-formation, public speaking, and problem-solving. Course content comes from a wide range of sources, including media outlets such as The Guardian, technical papers, and Capstone-created case studies. After processing, questioning, and analyzing complex information, students in this course are then expected to synthesize, critique, and present their thoughts on what they have learned within various contexts, such as mock trials, boardroom meetings, town hall meetings, debates, and formal presentations.

Perfect for students who:
- Want to expand their knowledge of current events and real-world issues
- Have some good ideas but struggle to articulate these ideas
- Wish to strengthen their reading and argumentation skills
- Hope to broaden their approach to problem solving

RRAPS (Grade 7-9)
In this course, students will
- Gain a greater understanding of political, economic, or cultural current events and historical issues
- Learn to speak confidently, clearly, and convincingly in front of an audience
- Create logical arguments and apply them in their presentations
- Analyze any given situation from a variety of perspectives and practice selecting appropriate speech methods to address their audience appropriately

Duration: 1.5 hrs | Class Size: 8 | Lesson Fee: $750 (In-person) | $600 (Online)

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AYEP-2021-4
Grade 7-9 Mentorship

The Mentorship program is built on top of the RAPS program with three key differences. Firstly, it assumes and requires that students be intellectually curious and personally ambitious (i.e., students want to be challenged with challenging work and are eager to share their ideas with others). Secondly, while a big aspect of Mentorship is analyzing issues (like RAPS) and focusing on presentation outputs such as debate, presentation, town hall, mock trial and hands-on projects (also like RAPS), Mentorship allows for more spontaneous conversations across more topics rather than cover the prescribed roadmap for one or two topics as within a typical RAPS class. Finally, Mentorship students are also exposed to preparation and assignments in anticipation of their long-term. For example, students are exposed to portions of the SAT and ACT, have discussions about future course selection and extracurricular activity, and even discuss potential careers and interests. Interested students must schedule an interview for admission.

Mentorship (Grade 7-9)

In this course, students will:
- Focus on developing core analytical, argumentation, and presentation skills
- Greater exposure in scope and level of detail to more challenging and mature topics to help ready students for their next phase of schooling
- Develop greater objectivity and perspective in young students when approaching issues
- Explore variety of intellectual activities and assignments to inspire students’ potential academic and professional interests

Duration: 1.5 hrs | Class Size: 8 | Lesson Fee: $900 (In-person) | $750 (Online)

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Grade 7-12 Public Speaking and Debate I - Introductory

Effective public speaking has become an essential skill in today’s media-rich academic and entrepreneurial fields. Capstone’s program is designed to equip students with the necessary skills to thrive in this context, with the intent to engage their listeners with strong rhetoric and critical thinking. Through a focus on debate, students learn more about salient issues, develop their analytical abilities, and gain greater confidence and fluency when presenting. The lower levels of the program focus on giving students the necessary critical thinking skills while getting them accustomed to debate within Capstone’s format. At the intermediate levels of the program, students learn specialized debating skills within standard competitive debate formats. Capstone’s upper-level debate program is a premier training course for debate and public speaking. Capstone’s debaters have made it to the elimination rounds of the World Schools and World Individuals debating championships. Yearly, Capstone’s students win championships, reach finals’ series, and receive best speaker’s prizes at Hong Kong’s biggest debating events and at the most prestigious tournaments in the world, including Harvard, Cambridge, Oxford, and Yale-World Scholars invitationals. Interested students must schedule an interview for admission.

Perfect for students who:
- Would like a better understanding of global events and important contemporary issues
- Have thoughts and opinions about the world and are looking for an outlet to speak up and be heard
- Want to hone their competitive spirit by engaging in the exciting world of competitive debate

PSD I - Introductory (Grade 7-9)
In this course, students will:
- Learn about complex current issues and evaluate them independently
- Practice basic speech structures to present on any topic persuasively
- Respond critically and competently to a peer’s arguments
- Gain exposure to basic debate terminology and concepts

Duration: 1.5 hrs | Class Size: 8 | Lesson Fee: $750 (In-person) | $600 (Online)

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Grade 7-12 Public Speaking and Debate II - Intermediate

Effective public speaking has become an essential skill in today’s media-rich academic and entrepreneurial fields. Capstone’s program is designed to equip students with the necessary skills to thrive in this context, with the intent to engage their listeners with strong rhetoric and critical thinking. Through a focus on debate, students learn more about salient issues, develop their analytical abilities, and gain greater confidence and fluency when presenting. The lower levels of the program focus on giving students the necessary critical thinking skills while getting them accustomed to debate within Capstone’s format. At the intermediate levels of the program, students learn specialized debating skills within standard competitive debate formats. Capstone’s upper-level debate program is a premier training course for debate and public speaking. Capstone’s debaters have made it to the elimination rounds of the World Schools and World Individuals debating championships. Yearly, Capstone’s students win championships, reach finals’ series, and receive best speaker’s prizes at Hong Kong’s biggest debating events and at the most prestigious tournaments in the world, including Harvard, Cambridge, Oxford, and Yale-World Scholars invitationals. Interested students must schedule an interview for admission.

Perfect for students who:
- Would like a better understanding of global events and important contemporary issues
- Have thoughts and opinions about the world and are looking for an outlet to speak up and be heard
- Want to hone their competitive spirit by engaging in the exciting world of competitive debate

PSD II - Introductory (Grade 7-12)
In this course, students will:
- Continue their education on important global issues and apply various perspectives in understanding them
- Gain exposure to standard competitive debate formats, including British Parliamentary and World Schools (3-v-3)
- Learn important debate terminology and concepts in greater depth
- Rebut the other team’s arguments by consistently and accurately identifying the flaws in them

Duration: 1.5 hrs | Class Size: 8 | Lesson Fee: $750 (In-person) | $600 (Online)

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Perfect for students who:
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- Have thoughts and opinions about the world and are looking for an outlet to speak up and be heard
- Want to hone their competitive spirit by engaging in the exciting world of competitive debate

PSD III - Advanced (Grade 7-12)
In this course, students will
- Build on an extensive repertoire of ideas within the fields of economics, philosophy, political science, international relations, and more
- Leverage experience to compete with confidence at the elimination round level and beyond at major debating competitions
- Train using more advanced and nuanced debating strategies
- Learn to perform well within the crucial areas of style, substance, and strategy

Duration: 2 hrs | Class Size: 8 | Lesson Fee: $980 (In-person) | $800 (Online)

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Grade 10-12 Writing, Discussion, and Thinking

Designed to prepare students for both the academic rigor and discussion-driven learning environment of upper secondary school and the first years of university and college. The focus is on presenting students with salient challenging topics and critical thinking frameworks to analyze them. This will be set in the context of a lively, discussion-driven academic course in which students will engage intellectually in a wide range of high-level reading material. Students will be expected and encouraged to actively raise questions, challenge opinions, and even lead discussions of their own. The culmination of each lesson is a presentation after which students receive immediate feedback from the instructor and their peers. Ultimately, students in this course develop all-around communication and thinking skills which help them excel in upper-secondary school and university classrooms.

Perfect for students who:
- Present strong points but may lack clarity in verbal and written work
- Make general claims that are not supported by relevant, compelling evidence
- Need to develop more initiative and confidence to participate in class discussions

Writing, Discussion, and Thinking (Grade 10-12)

In this course, students will
- Think about critical issues holistically and prepare in-depth analyses
- Practice articulating complex ideas using contextual evidence to anchor their arguments
- Steer class discussions and foster dialogue with peers
- Learn important skills for effective speech delivery and coherent writing

Duration: 1.5 hrs | Class Size: 8 | Lesson Fee: $750 (In-person) | $600 (Online)

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<tr>
<td>in-person</td>
<td>01IWDHH2003</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>16:30 - 18:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>online</td>
<td>01OWDHH2002</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>11:00 - 12:30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remarks:
Online lesson fee for Fall is offered on a special rate.
Application will be processed on a first-come-first-served basis.
Course schedule and fees are subject to change without advance notice.