



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who teaches the classes?

As a certified IEW instructor, Ginny has taught IEW classes in both traditional and online settings for many years. She now teaches online only and is excited to be partnering with RC History. Ginny is also a Master Catechist and incorporates her deep knowledge of the Catholic faith and salvation history into her writing lessons. This is her fourth year teaching Connecting with History families and she is extremely excited about the new format we are offering this year.

Ginny's homeschooling journey over the past twenty-five years has included both Connecting with History (CWH) and Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW) programs because both programs are flexible and successful with multiple children. By incorporating writing with history, her children were able to retain the historical information while honing their writing skills. CWH has been an enjoyable program for her family to learn history in the Catholic context and as one "class."

Ginny's family grew in knowledge of our Catholic heritage developed through CWH. Projects and field trips brought it all to life. Additionally, reading and writing skills were enhanced by incorporating IEW into her children's weekly assignments based on each child's personal ability. The texts that they read for history were the sources of the writing assignments for each IEW unit. Ginny finds the combination to be very natural in the learning process.

### What is IEW?

IEW is *Institute for Excellence in Writing*, a writing curriculum designed to teach students to write effectively. It is an incremental program designed to teach the writing process with a method that guides students in thinking clearly and expressing themselves succinctly. You can learn more about it [here](#). Through the Connecting with History/IEW classes, students will implement the program with Catholic, salvation history sources, thereby reinforcing your Connecting with History lessons through writing.

### In which class should I enroll my child?

#### **Level A**

Typically for grades 3-5, this class is open to any student who has had no introduction to the IEW program and/or might require a slower pace. Students should be able to write a basic sentence. This course will work through the first eight IEW units and involves only one paragraph per week as a writing assignment.

## **Level B**

Typically for students in grades 6-8, this class requires that students have had at least one year of IEW experience. The writing course begins with a brief review, so an older student with no IEW experience may easily catch on. This course will work through all nine IEW units, and students will end the school year writing five-paragraph essays and critiques.

### **Do I need to be using the Connecting with History (CWH) program to participate in these classes?**

The classes offered through RC History are designed to be a support to families using the Connecting with History program. The classes assume that you are using CWH. Students use books from CWH as source material.

### **Which volumes of Connecting with History do the classes cover?**

The classes use source material from all volumes of CWH. You enroll in whichever volume you will be studying this school year.

### **Are the classes live?**

**The lessons themselves are recorded.** There are several advantages to this format.

- **Our lessons contain more concentrated teaching content** than a live course because there are no interruptions from conversations or technical difficulties.
- The lessons include **classwork that the student works on as he or she goes through the lesson**; pausing the video to work on these handouts as the teacher guides them through the skills allows students to actively engage in the lessons. This practice is an integral part of the learning process. **Students are not passively watching a screen.**
- **You are not tied to a pre-scheduled time** to participate in the classes. We understand that families are busy and that “life happens.” With these lessons there is no missing out or getting behind. You decide on the schedule that works best for your family.
- **Students can progress at their own speed.** Some lessons are more challenging than others and will take more time and practice. With these classes that is not a problem, it is an opportunity to achieve mastery in each skill.
- There are **no cameras** involved. This ensures more privacy and security.

### **What services does the teacher provide?**

- All videos and instructional materials have been created directly by the teacher to compliment and coordinate IEW and Connecting with History. You will not find this anywhere else!
- Each lesson includes homework assignments that are completed by the student and submitted to the teacher through a student assignment portal.
- In response to the strengths of each written assignment your child submits, Ginny provides feedback that not only focuses on whether all the lesson's checklist requirements are met,

but also addresses spelling, punctuation, grammar, and other mechanics. Suggested revisions are included to improve sentence structure and clarity of content. She offers as much feedback as possible so that each student is personally given the opportunity to effectively revise their individual assignments. This is an extremely effective way to instill written skills.

- If at any time you or your child have questions about an assignment, you may contact Ginny via email. She is extremely responsive and eager to help you succeed!

### **How are the classes organized?**

The classes are organized by Connecting with History units with IEW skills taught sequentially. IEW lessons are divided by CWH units according to the source texts used as models.

Because the skills in IEW are sequential and spiral review is incorporated into each lesson, each lesson must be completed before the next one is available. This ensures that no lessons or quizzes are skipped. The videos are also formatted such that they must be completely viewed before the related assignment is unlocked.

Assignments are submitted via a student assignment portal that is also the area where they will receive their feedback, editing, and advising from the teacher. They can message the teacher from the portal with questions they may have when their assignment is returned. You may also contact Ginny by email.

### **What do the lessons include?**

Each lesson is made up of incremental writing skills, grammar lessons, vocabulary words related to the Connecting with History unit that they practice and use in their writing assignments, and content pertaining to history and the Catholic faith. These are not history or catechism courses however they will compliment and enhance your child's other studies.

There are also quizzes, games, and supplemental material to add to the fun and learning experience!

### **If I have two children at the same level, do I enroll each individually?**

Yes, each child must be registered individually. Each child receives personalized editing, feedback and assistance with their work. Additionally, students need to have separate access to the assignment portal via individual email addresses.

### **How long will I be able to access the classes?**

There will be a live Q&A with Ginny in August. Access to the classes will open August 29 and close May 31. The schedule includes pre-scheduled breaks during the school year, during which Ginny will not be available. Students may still work on lessons during these times if you wish, however only one assignment may be submitted during a scheduled break. You will be provided with a calendar upon enrollment.

## Does the teacher or the parent do the grading?

The parent and teacher work together! The teacher edits the Rough Draft assignments, which are the first submissions. There is no grade for the edited assignments because students must revise their work based on the feedback provided from the teacher. This is a part of the process of mastery learning. If the parent wishes that their students revise their past assignments, the parent is responsible for ensuring that the revisions are made based on the edited copies that are returned to the students by the teacher and can then give student a grade. Grading is completely optional. This is based upon IEW's Excellence in Structure and Style™ methodology.

## What material does my student need for class?

- Students are required to have a Gmail address/account for work submission.
- Binder, thesaurus, pens, highlighters
- Printer
- One [IEW Portable Wall](#) per family.

### VOLUME 1:

- [Connecting with History Companion Reader – Volume 1](#) (Levels A & B)
- [Building Way to Heaven](#) by Maura Roan McKeegan (Level B only)

### VOLUME 2:

- [Connecting with History Companion Reader – Volume 2](#) (Levels A & B)
- [57 Stories of the Saints](#) by Eileen Heffernan (Level B only)
- [St. George and the Dragon](#) by Margaret Hodges (Level B only)

### VOLUME 3:

- [Connecting with History Companion Reader – Volume 3](#) (Levels A & B)
- [57 Stories of the Saints](#) by Eileen Heffernan (Level B only)
- [Our Lady of Guadalupe](#) by Lawrence G. Lovasik (Level B only)

### VOLUME 4:

- [Connecting with History Supplemental Reader – Volume 4](#) (Levels A & B)
- [57 Stories of the Saints](#) by Eileen Heffernan (Level B only)
- [Legend of the Indian Paintbrush](#) by Tomie de Paola (Level B only)