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Frequently Asked Questions

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. Read more about it at www.iew.com Through classes at *RC History*, students will implement the program with Catholic, salvation history sources, thereby reinforcing the 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.

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

The IEW 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 and students use books from CWH as source material.

Which volumes of Connecting with History do the classes cover?

The 2021 IEW classes will be using source material from Volumes 1, 2 and 3 of CWH depending on which time period your family is studying this year. A detailed syllabus is provided upon registration.

Are the classes live?

Yes, students meet weekly with Ginny. She reviews concepts with the students and then begins the new lesson.

Are classes recorded?

Yes, every class is recorded and posted to the classroom within the hour after the live session ends. This is extremely helpful if something planned or unexpected prevents a student from attending live.

Is the \$199 per semester or for the whole year?

No, the \$199 cost is per semester. Fall semester runs August – November. Students need to be re-registered before the spring semester classes begin in January. Total cost for the school year is \$398, which is an incredible blessing to families when compared to other live classes with personal feedback on each student's assignment every week.

If I have two children at the same level, do I have to enroll each separately?

Yes, each child must be registered separately. Cost includes not only a live lesson but also personalized editing of each student's work. Additionally, students need to have separate access to their place in the Google classroom.

What is the start date for the classes?

Fall 2021 classes begin the week of August 30, 2021.

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. 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 and can then give student a grade.

Are there homework assignments and due dates?

Yes, every week there is an assignment. Students typically have until the day before class to complete the assignment. If the assignment is completed by the due date without contacting the teacher with a justified reason, then the assignment is not edited.

How are assignments submitted?

These classes utilize the Google Classroom for document exchange. Assignments are submitted via a Google Document in the Google Classroom. Every student needs a unique Gmail address for the Google Classroom to download and upload documents.

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 Books:

- **Connecting with History Companion Reader – Volume 1**
- **Building Way to Heaven** by Maura Roan McKeegan (needed in 2nd semester)

VOLUME 2 Books:

- **Connecting with History Companion Reader – Volume 2**
- **57 Stories of the Saints** by Eileen Heffernan
- **St. George and the Dragon** by Margaret Hodges (needed in 2nd semester)

VOLUME 3 Books:

- **Connecting with History Companion Reader – Volume 3**
- **57 Stories of the Saints** by Eileen Heffernan
- **Our Lady of Guadalupe** by Lawrence G. Lovasik (Needed 2nd semester)

Will you offer more classes in the future?

God willing, more classes will be added in the future if the need arises. Please be sure to contact either RC History or Stylistic Scribe with your writing needs.



Stylistic Scribe

Ginny Lennon is the wife to a Navy veteran and has four wonderful children. She has been an avid writer since she was a child and holds an A.A.S. degree in Executive Secretarial. As a certified *IEW* instructor, Ginny has taught *IEW* classes in both traditional and online settings for many years. Currently, she teaches online only and is excited to be partnering with RC History.

Ginny's homeschooling journey over the past twenty-five years around the country (and in Japan) 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." Knowledge of our Catholic heritage was developed through *CWH*, and 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.

Ginny is also a certified catechist and teaches third grade Faith Formation classes and serves as a Eucharistic Minister at her parish. She also volunteers as President of her local, Catholic homeschool support group. Ginny resides on the east coast and enjoys reading, cooking, crocheting, playing board games, and taking trips around the country with her family in their camper when she has free time.



Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW)

IEW is an effective, award-winning writing program that incorporates the four language arts: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Using a method that is incremental and reinforced with every lesson, this program provides the skills to students of all aptitudes that will benefit them throughout their lives. Techniques will be internalized as students *think* through the process of how to write. Checklists are provided with each assignment so that the students know exactly what the teacher expects to be included in the writing assignment. There's no mystery when reviewing an edited paper, and even the most reluctant writer enjoys learning to write with *IEW*.