

# Loomis Chaffee | *Summer Program*

## Enrichment Program Writing Courses Summer 2020

Writing has long been a signature program at Loomis Chaffee, so we make it a priority in the Summer Program, too. It is integral and invaluable to your education and, like any skill, requires hours of practice, knowledge of the fundamental techniques and rules, good instruction, and then more practice.

Students in the Enrichment Program choose one writing course and two electives. Writing courses are offered in separate sections by grade level (rising grades 7-8 and 9-11).

### **Creative Writing**

Get your “stories” out there! In this dynamic writing workshop, students will experience the benefits of creative expression through crafting and revising their own short stories and poems. All writers will be full participants in the “workshop” process; not only will they learn various exercises to help them free the writing muse, but they will also engage in the process of sharing and editing each other’s work in a positive environment. Discussions will be devoted to analysis of student work and that of professional writers. Students should expect to come away with a greater knowledge of the craft of writing, enhanced approaches to revising their work, and a far better understanding of their own unique writing style.

### **Moral Argument: How to Craft an Argument**

What does it mean to be morally right or wrong? How are we to best express, in writing, the answers to these difficult questions? This course aims to provide a bedrock of philosophical knowledge from which morality can be discussed and debated, and the technical skills needed to write tightly argued and compelling moral arguments of one’s own. Our thorough pursuit of these goals will bring us into contact with mind-bending philosophical thought experiments and dilemmas, including trolley problems, Meno’s Paradox, prisoner’s dilemmas, and cases involving moral luck, to name a few. After five weeks, students will have become comfortable distinguishing between well and poorly defended moral arguments, and will have become clearer, more thoughtful writers.

### **Quill Power: The Forensics of Sentences**

Becoming an effective writer requires careful attention to all the necessary details in every sentence. How many times have you said, “I know what I want to say, but I’m not sure how to say it best”? By learning what every sentence must have and what a sentence could have, students will gain a deeper awareness of solutions to crafting the right sentence for the right occasion. By summer’s end, students will have strengthened their ability and confidence in using grammar, diction, syntax, rhythm, and sound in their own writing.

### **Short Fiction: More "WOW" per Word**

Good reading and writing begin with an awareness of what goes into a well-written piece of fiction or poetry. By learning about the literary devices available to and used by authors, students in this course will explore the challenges, joys, and rewards of reading and writing fiction. The core curriculum will be composed of a selection of short stories from the American canon, in addition to several modern classic poems. The goal of the course will be to provide a safe space for academic exploration all the while bolstering their ability to express themselves through creative and analytic writing assignments. Our seminar style class will engage students collectively, and then in one-on-one peer and instructor meetings that will help evaluate their work and encourage tangible improvement. All the skills acquired in this course will transfer well to other course work (in high school or college) that demands critical thinking, analysis, and a facility to persuade or captivate an audience with the written word.

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**English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL): “From Soup to Nuts”**

Explore American culture while strengthening your command of the English language in speaking, reading, and writing. Through small group and individualized instruction, students will investigate and apply all aspects of the English language essential to increasing comprehension, fluency, and precision. Oral and aural components of the course include expanding vocabulary, exploration of idiomatic expressions, listening comprehension, class discussion, role play, and an oral presentation. Students will be encouraged to participate actively in daily lessons to hone their conversational skills. The writing-intensive portion of this course is conducted as a workshop; designed to allow students to discover and to experiment with the nuances of English as they build confidence in crafting effective prose.

*\*Please note that students placed in the ESOL course will complete a writing sample for the teacher on the first day of class in order to confirm placement within the program. If their demonstrated English proficiency is sufficient for our other writing courses, the students will have the option to switch.*