

Classical Conversations®

CHALLENGE



The Program

Our Challenge program, designed for students twelve years and older, provides the perfect setting for students to expand their command of the classical tools of learning—dialectic and rhetorical skills in particular. Our curriculum path uses a core of familiar classical material and content; however, the Challenge program's primary goal is the mastery of the timeless tools of the classical model. We identify Challenge "levels" rather than grades because we want students to enroll in the level they are prepared to study.

Challenge A introduces middle school students to the rigorous course work of the Challenge program. We purposefully limit the amount of reading to give students time to work on their writing skills. This program bridges students from the parent/tutor-directed elementary level to a more self-directed stage of learning.

Challenge B encourages students to stretch themselves and excel in academics and the classical skills of logic and debate. Students continue to develop the strand skills—grammar, exposition, debate, research, rhetoric, and logic. Courses in formal logic, current events and mock trial, history-shaping scientists, origins and beliefs, Latin, pre-algebra, and distinctive literature and short stories all make Challenge B a power-packed program.

Challenge I continues to hone students' classical learning skills through a focus on American literature and

American government and its economic systems and policies. The study of philosophy, Latin, physical science, algebra, free market economics, and Shakespeare deepens and broadens students' thinking and prepares them for later Challenge levels.

In **Challenge II**, students study Western ideas focusing on European and cultural studies. British literature, Latin II, traditional logic, advanced algebra, Western cultural history, American drama, and biology provide a well-rounded academic core. Group discussions and projects gain depth and importance at this level.

Challenge III conceptualizes abstract ideas, which improves clear thinking. In addition, Challenge III encourages students to polish their literary writing, presenting, and analytical skills. Latin, Shakespeare and poetry, American history, chemistry, advanced logic and philosophy, and higher level mathematics integrate student learning skills across academic subjects.

Challenge IV is the capstone of all the Challenge levels. Student-led seminar discussions evaluate the most in-depth reading material of all the Challenges. The combination of ancient literature, theology, and world history encourages investigation of history (His story) in remarkable intensity. The assignments require analysis from a biblical perspective and help students develop a philosophically integrated worldview. Research in physics, more development in language usage, and logic studies in calculus complete the academic study.

The Community

For fifteen weeks in the fall and fifteen weeks in the spring, students participate in a weekly seminar that is facilitated by a trained Challenge tutor.

Weekly assignments are outlined in the guide (issued by the tutor to each student) specific to that Challenge level. At home, students study six subjects utilizing the learning skill associated with that strand; in the weekly class time, students practice dialectic and rhetorical skills. Tutors help point students to the integration of science and history, literature and history, math and science, philosophy and literature, and so on, while also pointing students to the plumb line of God's Word. The weekly class time gives students further opportunities to hone skills in public exposition, speaking and debate, as well as to explore more advanced learning in research and logic seminars.

The Partnership

Although tutors facilitate the weekly community time and lead class discussions, parents continue to be students' primary teachers. The tutor/parent/student partnership is a valuable relationship which fosters accountability for all the partners.

CHALLENGE

Another unique characteristic of the Challenge program is six learning skills or “strands.” Each classical subject is taught with the goal of developing these six skills. The chart below lays out the six-year scope and sequence of seminars. Subjects associate with one of six learning skills, or strands, emphasized in the classical model.

The six strands are:

- **GRAMMAR:** The grammar strand is associated with language studies; while every subject has “grammar,” the tutor

will discuss this learning skill and how it relates to language in particular.

- **EXPOSITION and COMPOSITION:** The exposition strand is linked with literature and history. In this strand, students refine their writing skills.
- **DEBATE:** In the debate strand, students learn and then practice the skills of research, argumentation, critical thinking, public speaking, and logic.
- **RESEARCH:** Students perfect their research learning skills through a series of science topics and texts.

- **RHETORIC:** In this strand, students combine writing, public speaking, and logical thinking to improve their rhetoric technique through the discussion of various ideas.

- **LOGIC:** While this is not a formal logic course, the study of mathematics helps develop problem-solving abilities, which are part of the learning skill of logic.

All six strands of Challenge work together to develop a complementary and comprehensive set of life-long learning skills.

Challenge Scope and Sequence

Junior High		High School			
Challenge A	Challenge B	Challenge I	Challenge II	Challenge III	Challenge IV
GRAMMAR					
Latin	Latin	Latin I	Latin II	Caesar and Cicero	Language and Literature
EXPOSITION and COMPOSITION					
Writing and Children's Literature	Children's Literature / Short Stories	American Literature	British Literature	Poetry / Shakespeare	Ancient Literature
DEBATE					
Geography	Current Events / Mock Trial	Free Market Economics / American Government	Western Cultural History	American History	World History
RESEARCH					
Biology and Natural Science	History of Science / Origins	Physical Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
RHETORIC					
Clear Reasoning / Apologetics	Formal Logic	Intro Philosophy / Drama	Traditional Logic / Am. Drama	Adv. Logic / Adv. Philosophy	Theology
LOGIC					
Saxon 8/7	Algebra ½	Algebra 1	Algebra 2	Advanced Math (A)	Advanced Math (B)

To find a Challenge Community near you, to start a Challenge Community, or to learn more about participation costs, visit our website and click on the “Find a CC Community” map. For resources and materials needed to participate in our Challenge Community, visit our online book store.