



**CHRIST-
LIKENESS**

LOVE

UNITY

EXCELLENCE

INTEGRITY

DISCIPLESHIP

What is WCA's Vision for **RHETORIC?**

The Rhetoric Program is designed to equip students to use all five canons of rhetoric well: invention, arrangement, style, memory, and delivery. Students will develop their methods of invention, thinking without fallacy, and effectively communicating abstract and complex ideas so that they will be equipped to communicate effectively in persuasive writing, speaking, and debate.

The program's goals are as follows:

- To raise up students who think in a sophisticated and distinctly Christian manner— equipped to identify fallacies in others' writing or speech and to write and speak without committing fallacies.
- To raise up students whose highest desire is to communicate in writing and speech in order to love others well and discover and uphold the truth.
- To equip students with the ability to locate, evaluate, and cite sources in their writing and speaking.
- To train students to synthesize their learning in a relevant, independent, thesis that they will present and defend.

At Westside Christian Academy the Rhetoric courses are taken each year. Courses are sequenced in such a way that students are practicing the classical approach to writing: invention (considering what to say), arrangement (choosing an order in which to say it), style (determining how to say something), memory (reciting content), and delivery (integrating voice and gesture to convey meaning). Students study symbolic and Socratic logic to develop their thinking. They are instructed from many original sources, memorizing and analyzing excellent speeches including but not limited to: "The St. Crispin's Day Speech" from Henry V, Pericles' "Funeral Oration," and "The Gettysburg Address."



While the classical approach to writing is the foundation of the Rhetoric department's coursework, students also engage in the use of 21st century approaches by developing the skills of research using online databases, adhering to contemporary methods of citation, and utilizing current collaborative and word processing technologies.

