

Rhetoric IV: Senior Thesis Schedule 2024-25

Cary Christian School

Quarter 1 – Rhetoric Review & Thesis Preparation (schedule varies)

First quarter is dedicated to:

- Reviewing principles of rhetoric from classical and Christian perspectives
- Discussing classical Christian education and how the senior thesis fits into it
- Improving research skills
- Choosing a thesis topic
- Selecting potential sources and compiling them into a preliminary bibliography
- Getting started working with an adviser to come up with a reading plan
- Getting ready to start reading on day 1 of quarter 2

Quarter 2 – Research, Note-Taking, & Outlining

NOTE: Reading progress is measured by both pages read and time spent reading: 50-100 pages and 5 hours per week is the minimum recommendation. The page number requirement varies fairly widely because some material is much denser than others: for instance, 50 pages of scholarly journal articles is about the equivalent of 100 pages of a book. Students are expected to take this into account when keeping track of their reading.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 <i>Oct. 21-25</i>	Begin Reading, Note-Taking, Outlining				Teacher Work Day
Week 2 <i>Oct. 28- Nov. 1</i>			Reading Check: 50-100+ pages 5+ hours		Adviser Meeting #1 Due
Week 3 <i>Nov. 4-8</i>					
Week 4 <i>Nov. 11-15</i>			Reading Check: 150-300 pages 15+ hours		Adviser Meeting #2 Due
Week 5 <i>Nov. 18-22</i>	Senior Trip Begins				
Week 6 <i>Nov. 25-29</i>			Thanksgiving Break		
Week 7 <i>Dec. 2-6</i>					
Week 8 <i>Dec. 9-13</i>		Reading Check: 200-400+ pages 20+ hours		Adviser Meeting #3 Due	
Week 9 <i>Dec. 16-20</i>	Outline Due	Christmas Break			

Quarter 3 – Writing

Length Requirements (all are double-spaced but the detailed outline, which is single-spaced):

- Detailed Outline 4 - 8 pages
- Introduction 1 - 1 ½ pages
- Narration 2 - 4 pages
- Division ½ - 1 ½ pages
- Proof 6 - 10 pages
- Refutation 3 - 4 pages
- Conclusion ½ - 1 page

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 <i>Jan. 6-10</i>	Start Detailed Outline				Detailed Outline Due (end of period)
Week 2 <i>Jan. 13-17</i>		Write Narration/ Division		Adviser Meeting Due	
Week 3 <i>Jan. 20-24</i>	MLK Day				
Week 4 <i>Jan. 27-31</i>	Narration/ Division Due Start Proof				Proof (Part 1) Due
Week 5 <i>Feb. 3-7</i>				Proof (Part 2) Due	
Week 6 <i>Feb. 10-14</i>			Proof (Part 3) Due Start Refutation		Adviser Meeting Due
Week 7 <i>Feb. 17-21</i>	Presidents' Day		Refutation Due Start Intro/ Conclusion		
Week 8 <i>Feb. 24-28</i>		First Draft Due Peer Review #1		Peer Review #2	
Week 9 <i>Mar. 3-7</i>					Final Paper Due

Quarter 4 –Presentations

Presentation Logistics

- Presentations are held from 8:00 AM – 12:20 PM each day
- Two presentations are held during each 80-minute period
- Each presentation consists of a 5-10 speech by the student introducing the topic and providing an overview of the paper, followed by 20-30 minutes of questions and dialogue with 3 faculty/admin panelists.
- Panelists consist of the thesis director, the student’s adviser, and one other teacher or administrator with an interest in the topic.
- The 3 best presenters are asked to present again in “Thesis Encore Night.” Members of the school and local community are invited. Instead of a panel, the audience members may ask questions for 5-10 minutes.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 <i>Mar. 24-28</i>	Write Speech & Get Ready for Presentations				Teacher Work Day
Week 2 <i>Mar. 31- April 4</i>					Practice in Class
Week 3 <i>April 7-11</i>		Practice in Class		Practice in Class	
Week 4 <i>April 14-18</i>	Thesis Presentations	Thesis Presentations	[CLT]	Thesis Presentations	Good Friday
Week 5 <i>April 21-25</i>	Easter Monday	Thesis Presentations	Thesis Presentations	Thesis Presentations	Thesis Presentations
Week 6 <i>April 28- May 2</i>	Thesis Presentations	Thesis Presentations	Thesis Presentations	Thesis Presentations	Senior Skip Day
Week 7 <i>May 5-9</i>		Write advice to next year’s seniors and thank you notes to teachers		Thesis Encore Night (7pm)	
Week 8 <i>May 12-16</i>		Exams	Exams	Graduation	