



FIND YOUR VOICE. SPEAK YOUR MIND.

1359 Route 2 • The Mohawk Trail • Charlemont, MA 01339 • 413.339.4912 • Fax 413.339.4324 • www.charlemont.org

12th – Senior Humanities focuses on the close reading and critical examination of literature in the contexts of history, philosophy, religion and the arts. Students identify and analyze several important areas that inform the individual in society, looking at each text through the lens of four main ideas: power, beauty, truth, and knowledge. Our discussion centers on the way writers find and establish meaning and examines each work’s structure and style. Writing assignments focus on the critical analysis of literature in a historical, creative, or philosophical context and include exposition, analysis, argument and research that connect literature to other disciplines of the students’ choice. The goal of all writing assignments is to increase students’ ability to explain clearly, cogently, confidently, and elegantly what they understand about literature and why they interpret it as they do. Required writing assignments include timed essays, longer at-home assignments on mandatory or independent reading, personal narrative, metacognitive reflection, and a fifteen page research paper. The writing process includes revising through conferences and developing sophisticated vocabulary and mechanical correctness through example.

Each student presents a three to five minute speech to the school community based on the NPR “This I Believe” program and participates in group and individual oral presentations to the class on a regular basis.

The final two weeks of class center around discussions devoted to adjustment to college life. These discussions will be led by an emergency room doctor, a psychiatric nurse, a college health services counselor and a college dean of students.

Texts include *Writing True : The Art and Craft of Creative Non-Fiction* -Perl/Schwartz, *Don’t Lets Go to the Dogs Tonight* – Fuller, *Things Fall Apart* – Achebe, *Heart of Darkness* – Conrad, *The Poisonwood Bible* – Kingsolver, *Beloved* – Morrison, *The World’s Religions* – Smith, *Hamlet* – Shakespeare, and *As I Lay Dying* and assorted short stories- Faulkner.