

## High School 9th/10th English/History Classes (2021-22):

### The Basics (More Details Below):

#### American Government:

- Book: *American Government for Christian Homeschoolers*
- Games/Fun Stuff - Memory games, crosswords, Jeopardy! games, projects, and more
- Audio-Visuals - Film clips of politicians, funny/interesting full-length films related to American Government topics

#### American Literature:

- Essays, Poems, Letters, Speeches - Selections to inspire, enlighten, and tickle the funny bone of students
- Short Stories - New, updated 2nd Edition includes 16 of America's greatest short stories!
- *In a Hollow of the Hills* - An exciting, fast-paced story of the old west by popular author Bret Harte
- *Up from Slavery* - An inspiring autobiography by former Alabama slave Booker T. Washington
- *The Magnificent Ambersons* - One of America's finest novels, set in Indiana, a Pulitzer-Prize winner by Booth Tarkington

#### Grammar/Vocabulary/Composition:

- Usage and grammar rules (commas, possessive case, gerunds, clauses, and more), reinforced with regular take-home practice worksheets
- About 85 key vocabulary words (definitions, origins, synonyms, and use in context), also reinforced with take-home practice worksheets
- Eight turn-in essays

#### Optional "9th Grade" Elective: Math Tips, Tricks, and Mental Calculations (1st Semester, 8:15 - 9:15 AM):

- included FREE with 1A
- teaches students to do quick mental math
- includes practice sheets for home

#### Optional "10th Grade" Elective: Logic (1st Semester, 2 - 2:50 PM):

- included FREE with 1A
- a fun, fast-paced review of common logical fallacies
- plenty of audio-visuals in class!

### More Details:

- **American Government:** In our text, *American Government for Christian Homeschoolers*, we review what the Bible says is the true reason for government, the truth about the "separation between church and state," the superiority of limited government, influences on America's government (Christianity, Ancient Greece and Rome, the Renaissance, the Reformation, etc.), government types and their strengths and weaknesses, the Declaration of Independence and Articles of Confederation and U. S. Constitution, constitutional amendments, key Supreme Court cases, nullification, political parties, secession, the North/South War's effect on U. S. government, taxation, endless government agencies, welfare and foreign aid, government spending, great presidential vetoes and pardons, "emergencies" as excuses for government tyranny, and more!
- **American Literature:** Our book set is *American Literature for Christian Homeschoolers*. Students analyze these areas of American Literature: essays, speeches, poems, letters, short stories, novels, and a biography. Students also review literary elements (theme, plot, character, setting, irony, symbolism, tone, and style), comparing often humanistic worldviews with a Christian view.
- **Grammar & Vocabulary:** Students study usage and grammar rules and concepts (the possessive case, gerunds, serial commas and comma use, pronoun-antecedent agreement, parenthetical expressions, restrictive clauses, and non-

restrictive clauses. Concepts are reinforced through regular practice worksheets, exercises, and activities. Vocabulary includes about 85 words (definitions, origins, synonyms, and use in context) which often appear on the SAT and ACT.

- **Composition:** Compositions often relate to areas of study in other 1A subjects such as American Government and American Literature. Students receive thorough corrections on their turn-in essays, with the benefit of Scott Clifton's degree in journalism and his experience as a writer and editor.
- **"9th Grade" Suggested Elective (1st Semester) – Math Tips & Tricks (Optional):** Math Tips & Tricks meets on the same day as 1A, from 8:15 - 9:15 AM, and is included free with 1A. There are three main goals of this class:

**Goal 1: to teach students how to perform these calculations in their heads:**

- multiplying and dividing numbers with decimals
- calculating percents
- multiplying and dividing numbers with zeroes
- manipulating fractions
- multiplying and dividing numbers by 4 or by 5

**Goal 2: to sharpen students' speed and proficiency in these essential skills:**

- converting decimals/fractions/percents
- solving ratios
- speeding up "long division"
- solving fraction word problems
- working out real-world math problems (unit pricing, interest rates, tipping, and so on).

**Goal 3: to increase success with higher math classes**

The bottom line: The techniques and practice problems in "Math Tips & Tricks," if applied by students, will..

- make arithmetic faster,
- increase accuracy in problem solving,
- speed up math lessons with whatever program they use, and
- enable them to focus on concepts, not arithmetic, in higher math!

Students who join the Math Tips & Tricks class should already have their four operation tables (+, −, ×, ÷) thoroughly and quickly mastered. This is a great class for brushing up on mastering arithmetic skills like fractions, decimals, and percents, or improving performance in higher math classes by speeding up and honing skills in arithmetic!

We'll have lots of in-class practice problems, worksheets to complete at home (they shouldn't take more than about 10 minutes per day), and fun activities like "Jeopardy!" games in class.

- **"10th Grade" Elective (1st Semester) – Logic (Optional):** Logic meets on the same day as 1A, from 2:00 - 2:50 PM, and is included free with 1A. The main concepts learned:
  - a Christian view of logic
  - determining good and bad reasoning
  - assumptions
  - propaganda
  - logical fallacies (ad hominem attacks, circular reasoning, straw man arguments, red herrings, and so on)
  - audio-visuals
  - assignment sheets to help students memorize logical fallacy types through review and repetition
  - take-home worksheets to help students determine types of logical fallacies