veritas Self-Paced Rhetoric I Course



Introducing the Veritas Self-Paced Rhetoric I Course

Equipping Students to Speak Truth with Wisdom, Clarity, and Love



At Veritas, we've long recognized that rhetoric is an integral part of classical education: the art of applying wisdom to persuade others with words and actions. But too often, the concept of "rhetoric" is misunderstood as mere persuasion or performance. In reality, it's much deeper—and much more urgent for today's students.

That's why we're thrilled to announce the launch of the Veritas Self-Paced Rhetoric I Course, a one-of-a-kind online experience designed to train students in the art of loving others through communication. Developed and taught by Dr. Michael Collender, beloved Veritas Scholars Academy teacher, TEDx speaker, and co-creator of the A Rhetoric of Love curriculum, this course is the culmination of more than two decades of classical teaching experience.

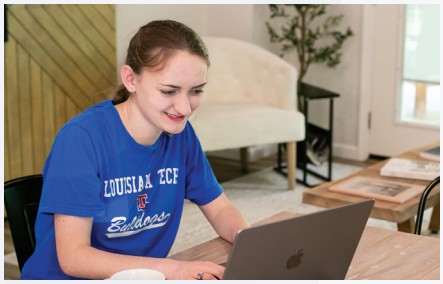
Whether your student is just entering the world of classical learning or has thrived on Omnibus and Logic courses for years, this course is built to serve them. Flexible, interactive, and deeply rooted in biblical truth, it offers a new standard for rhetorical training designed not just to inform, but to *transform*.

Why a Rhetoric I Self-Paced Course? Why now?

Students today are growing up in a digital world shaped by algorithm-fed outrage, screen-mediated relationships, and increasing emotional fragility. Many teens struggle with anxiety, especially when asked to speak publicly, organize complex thoughts, or receive feedback. Meanwhile, families are navigating education in an era of confusion, polarization, and shallow communication.

The Self-Paced Rhetoric I Course responds directly to this moment.

Rather than merely teaching students how to "win arguments," this course grounds rhetoric in love: training students to communicate clearly, think logically, and speak winsomely. It's designed to meet students where they are and take them further than they thought possible.



Rhetoric I as a path to anti-fragility

At its core, this course aims to make students anti-fragile by making them able to grow stronger through challenge, pressure, and real-life communication situations. Dr. Collender has designed the course to confront three distinct areas where today's students often struggle:

- **Performance Anxiety:** By practicing in a self-paced environment, students can grow confident without the fear of failure or embarrassment. They get to build strength before stepping into the spotlight.
- **Gaps in Classical Foundations:** For students who haven't had formal Logic or Composition, this course introduces and reviews those tools within the context of rhetorical training, equipping them as they go.
- **Overloaded High Achievers:** For advanced students who want to revisit and refine core skills they've previously encountered, the course offers deep reinforcement, giving them the opportunity to master every detail with confidence.

This anti-fragile approach helps students become not just competent speakers, but resilient, wise communicators—capable of thriving in a fractured world.

How It Works

The Veritas Self-Paced Rhetoric I Course combines:

- High-impact lessons
- Immediate application through exercises, games, and assessments
- Built-in review of logic, composition, and persuasive structure
- Feedback mechanisms that allow students to track their growth

And because the course is self-paced, your student can start anytime, progress on their schedule, and revisit material as often as needed without the pressure of performing in a live classroom setting.

Who Is It For?

- Students preparing to take the Rhetoric II live course
- Homeschoolers looking for a high-quality speaking and logic foundation
- Classical schools seeking a turnkey rhetoric program
- Students pursuing ministry, law, debate, or leadership roles
- Adults seeking to sharpen their communication in a biblical framework

In short, this course is for anyone who wants to grow in truth-centered, love-motivated communication whether in the classroom, the pulpit, the public square, or around the dinner table.

Interviews World-Class Subject Experts

The Veritas Self-Paced Rhetoric I Course also includes interviews with world-class experts who share their own insights on course topics:

- **How to Train Your Voice:** Roger Love is one of the world's leading voice coaches, with over 30 years of experience training singers, actors, and public speakers. He has worked with stars like Bradley Cooper, Selena Gomez, John Mayer, Reese Witherspoon, Joaquin Phoenix, and Tony Robbins. His clients have sold over 150 million albums and earned Grammys and Oscars. Love teaches how to master breathing, vocal placement, and the seamless blend of chest, head, and middle voice to unleash powerful, persuasive communication.
- **Developing Curiosity:** Nolan Bushnell, creator of the commercial video game, founder of Atari and Chuck E. Cheese, mentor to Steve Jobs, and author of Finding the Next Steve Jobs: How to Find, Keep, and Nurture Talent, explains how to recognize and cultivate curiosity as the core of developing your talents.
- **The Power of Silence:** Bruce Bryan, wrongfully convicted and imprisoned for 29 years, eventually proved his innocence and won his freedom. He has appeared on Joe Rogan and many other major podcasts. Now living in New York, he teaches rhetoric and debate to young men in prison, showing them that they aren't serving time—time is serving them. He explains how silence, rightly used, becomes a weapon of strength and clarity.
- **How to Develop Social Capital:** Ken Rutkowski, the inventor of the podcast and a legendary super-connector who has interviewed over 30,000 people, explains how to build meaningful access to people and opportunity through the strategic use of social capital.



- **Cultivating Creativity:** Prince Stanislas Klossowski de Rola—known to his friends as Prince Stash—was an actor, screenwriter, and member of Vince Taylor's band. He shared stages with The Rolling Stones and was close friends with Jimi Hendrix, The Who, and The Beatles. He reflects on creativity as a cultivated lifestyle, shaped through music, performance, and relationships.
- **How to Influence the Zeitgeist of Culture:** Will Henshall, founder of the band Londonbeat and writer of multiple Billboard hits, unpacks how to craft messages that resonate with the moment and ripple across culture. He shows how music and storytelling can be engineered to influence the spirit of an age.
- **How to Use Surprise:** Franz Harary, the illusionist who made the Space Shuttle disappear, designs large-scale illusions and theme park attractions around the world. He has worked with Michael Jackson, Snoop Dogg, Tupac, Missy Elliott, and others. Surprise, he argues, is not just entertainment—it's the engine of emotional engagement and impact.
- **How Architecture Shapes Stories:** Alan Roderick-Jones, the production designer who created the iconic Star Wars Cantina in 1977, explains how architecture can shape the psychological landscape of a story. His work across Hollywood reveals how built spaces convey mood, power, and narrative structure.
- **How Stories Influence a Culture's Worldview:** Brian Godawa, screenwriter and author of Hollywood Worldviews, shows how stories don't just reflect culture, they shape it. He explains how narrative can carry and transmit a worldview, influencing how entire societies see truth, meaning, and morality.

Sign up now!

This course will be available in time for the 2025–2026 school year and can be used in the Diploma Program.

With the Veritas Self-Paced Rhetoric I Course, your student will gain more than speaking skills; they'll gain the confidence to lead, the wisdom to discern, and the humility to love through every word they speak.

"Wisdom is the skill of using information to make things of lasting value." —Dr. Michael Collender

Let this course be part of the legacy of wisdom and lasting value you build in your student's life.
Because rhetoric, rightly taught, doesn't just win arguments, it shapes culture.
And the world needs voices like your student's.

Cost: $349. Only from Veritas Press.