



TAPESTRY  
UNIVERSITY

*Where you are the faculty.*

Your Notes:

## GUIDELINES FOR TAPESTRY OF GRACE RHETORIC CO-OPS

In order to ensure that our levels of participation remain high and that the students receive the most benefit possible, our Steering Committee has come up with the following standards:

- ❑ Assignments are given in the weekly pages of the *Tapestry* curriculum. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that their students come to class adequately prepared to fully participate in the class discussion. The co-op teachers are NOT generally responsible to reiterate the content of reading assignments in class. This is not the purpose for our discussion times. The teacher's role is more of a "guest lecturer" in your homeschool. She is not the primary teacher. We need you, the parent, to assign and check your children's work each week before you allow them to attend classes.

--> Required work for history class:

- ❑ Parents will choose an appropriate load of reading from the suggested reading assignments (listed on page 4 of *Tapestry* year-plans), such that the students will be familiar with the facts of the weekly topic and its major themes before history class. Thus, though the students may read various selections, their goal is to be able to contribute to and benefit from the history discussion.
- ❑ From the reading, the students should know the answers to all "Accountability Questions."
  - ❑ Parents are free to require or not require these answers to be written out unless there is a chart. If there is a chart, it must be filled out to the best of the students' ability before they come to class.
  - ❑ Before coming to class, answers to the "Thinking Questions" must be briefly written out (outline, mind map, phrase outlines, notes, as suit the topic/question). These answers must be brought with the students to class. (NOTE: There some times when a student, especially a younger rhetoric student, will not be able to answer all of the Thinking Questions, and will thus have gaps. The history discussion time is often a time for filling in those gaps. Thinking Questions involve THINKING! Pondering and coming up with a "wrong" answer is fine... at least he's thinking the issue through! BUT, there should not be many blank answers on the page.
  - ❑ If a student leaves an answer blank, you, the parent, need to initial it. This will indicate to the teacher that the parent is "excusing" the student from that answer, because he couldn't find it. However, please don't let your students default to a habit of leaving answers blank. Remember, in this context, even a well-thought-out-but-wrong answer is better than none!

--> Requirements for literature classes:

- ❑ The students will complete the literature assignment before coming to Friday's class. This typically consists of reading the required book (or assigned portions) and answering the questions pertaining to it found in the student activity pages.
- ❑ The answers should be in written form, but they need not be in paragraph or sentence form. Written-out answers are intended to crystallize the students' thoughts and help them recall them. They also serve as a type of "proof" that your child read the book; the child's answers (don't forget to date them!), accompanied by a copy of the questions, are great to show your reviewer at your end-of-the-year review.

Attending class discussions is a privilege, not a right. In order to keep classes productive, please observe the following rules.

- ❑ If a child is unprepared for class (hasn't done writing assignment) or you have excused him from significant amounts of assigned readings, please do not send him to class. Students who are unprepared cause teachers to draw the level of the whole class down to the slowest student's pace. Chronic under-preparedness can also tempt well-prepared students to lessen their efforts when they see slackers attending with the same privileges as those who worked for them.
- ❑ An exception to barring your unprepared student from class participation would occasionally be if your child completed all the reading but was unable to do/finish the questions (due to circumstances beyond his control, e.g., sickness—NOT poor time management—or perhaps your family's vacation time or your lack of having the materials that he needed to complete the assignment). That student could come to class and sit in the "peanut gallery," where he would listen to, but not participate in, the week's discussion.
- ❑ If your child will not be attending class, or will be sitting in the peanut gallery, please communicate this to the teacher in advance so that she can best prepare for the numbers of students she will have in discussion. This is especially important for literature classes.

As a group, we have decided to use the forum as our primary means of spreading information to each other. Most posts will be appropriate for only older students to access, but will be written primarily to parents.

- ❑ Our primary reason for using the Forums is that there are no "missed emails" or confusion between emails and forum posts that overlap. If you wish to receive email notifications of topics on the forums, you can click the "Notify Me" box at the bottom of each thread, and the software will generate an email copy of any replies.
- ❑ If your student is reading the Forum for you, please do not allow your student to use it to "chat" with other students. Posts should be parent to parent, parent/teacher to student, and student to teacher only.
- ❑ NOTE: A student may respond on a parent's behalf. It would be helpful if he acknowledges that this is what he's doing, e.g., "Mrs. Smith--My mom says that I can come on the field trip to the Great Pyramid in Egypt that you're organizing! Sounds like a great time! Spencer")
- ❑ Following these rules will keep the posts down to a minimum and allow faster glean- ing of information from them.
- ❑ We are all busy families facing many demands. Out of respect for everyone's many responsibilities, we **request all parents in the co-op to monitor forum postings, especially those requiring a response.** To make these postings as easy to use as possible, we will identify in the subject line the forum postings requiring a response. In the past, some co-op families have failed to monitor forum postings, causing unnecessary work for others to contact them, and disruption both to the co-op generally and to the non-responding family's participation in it. As already stated, this co-op has elected to communicate important messages via the forum, and we expect all families to cooperate. We recognize that occasional difficulties may arise and are willing to extend grace as needed. If, however, co-op families repeatedly fail to respond to posting requiring a response (i.e., three times), we may need to ask you to leave the co-op. Thanks in advance for your cooperation in this important matter.

In order to maximize the benefits from class participation, we have instituted the following rules:

- ❑ If a student's behavior causes a major disruption to the class or is a habitually bad example to the class, the teacher will call that student's parent within 24 hours of the

class, as well as alerting [our co-op leader] to the problem. After three such calls, the student will not be able to attend co-op classes for two weeks. Upon his return, the student must be accompanied by a parent to his first class back. If there are any further incidents, that student will not be allowed to return to the class for the duration of the year. (Behaviors that would be considered disruptive include, but are not limited to, disrespectful speech, listening to music during class, having headphones on—even if music isn't being played—not participating in the class discussion when called upon, passing notes to other students, sleeping in class, disregarding teacher instructions about taking notes, etc.)

- ❑ We are requiring that no music-making machines or equipment come to class. This will ensure that students will not be deceptively listening to music during discussion times instead of fully participating. It will also help the students to relate to each other before and after class and during any break time. If any music-making devices appear, they will be confiscated and returned only to parents and only upon request. Thank you for your understanding and help in this matter.

We have a few more student guidelines that don't fall neatly into any category. They are as follows:

- ❑ Please don't bring any "weapons" to class. Class time is not the appropriate time or place for an air-soft battle or target practice. Having a knife-throwing practice with pocket knives is not wise, either! Even if you are a champion sling-shooter, don't bring it to class to demonstrate your prowess! All weapons will be taken and returned only to parents upon a parent's request.
- ❑ If you are wearing a hoodie, hoods must be down (off the head) for the duration of the class. We all like to see the faces that we are interacting with, and teachers also like to see that we *are* interacting!
- ❑ Tell your teacher on the first day of class that she is a great teacher and that you're looking forward to being in the class. This will do two things: it will encourage the teacher, and the teacher will give you a reward for reading these guidelines carefully. (This was put in as a "trick" to see if you read these guidelines.) And if you want to say "Thank you" after each class, that would be great... it's music to your teacher's ears!
- ❑ Please respect the houses, facilities, and families that are hosting the classes. Unless invited by an adult in the family, don't go into parts of the house other than where class is held and the designated bathroom. Look for opportunities to serve (e.g., take off your shoes at the door during wet weather, put away chairs, etc.).
- ❑ A wisdom issue: Class time is for learning, not socializing. Be wise in your choice of who you sit next to; if you're tempted to chat, pass notes to, or make side comments with your buddy, don't sit next to him or her in class! If your teacher asks you to relocate to eliminate/avoid chatting or distracting yourself or others, please do so cheerfully; your teacher is trying to serve you and the class.
- ❑ Are there any new students in your class? Go beyond your comfort zone and reach out to them. Are you new to this co-op? Don't wait for others to come to you, go to them first. Everyone should follow Jesus' example: He came not to be served but to serve.
- ❑ As co-op continues and you get more comfortable, please resist selfishness to just hang out with/sit next to your buddies. Look out for the interest of others. Look for ways to reach out to everyone throughout this entire year. You'll only benefit if you do!
- ❑ Seek to serve those students of the opposite gender. Dress modestly to serve them.
- ❑ Our goal in all of these rules and procedures is simple: we hope that all will honor Christ and also enjoy the coming year!