



G.E.N. Education collaborates with Mr. Tom Hodgson to design a humanity/philosophy course of ***Proof and Persuasion*** for high schoolers that simultaneously integrates important philosophy concepts and the cognitive skills needed for effective long-term learning. It prepares young learners skills including critical thinking, persuasive thinking, debating, writing, and content curation. **Mr. Tom Hodgson designed the course based on one of the most popular elective courses at Andover which he had proudly created and taught for many years.** This course in applied logic will introduce concepts and skills designed to help us think through how best to answer any real life questions by 1) helping us separate bad information and thinking in debating from better alternatives; 2) offer guidelines for constructing sound arguments; 3) explore various approaches to meeting the challenge of changing the minds of others, and our own.

Mr. Tom Hodgson holds an B.A. and M.A. in philosophy from Williams College and Yale University, respectively. He is currently an Instructor Emeritus at Phillips Academy (1976-2017) where he taught courses in ethics, logic, political philosophy, existentialism, metaphysics and theory of knowledge and was a chair of Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. There he was also Head Coach of Andover's varsity squash team. He was a visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Williams College. Tom is currently an assistant coach of squash at Williams College.

Humanity/Philosophy Class : Proof and Persuasion



Mr. Hodgson will provide a webinar for students and parents to have a taste of his signature course.

Applications need to complete a survey question form and provide a self-introduction upon to the application submission.

**Weekly 2 lectures (2x90 min), total 6 weeks, 8 students per class
Week of June 21 to Week of July 26**

Proof and Persuasion

- Introduction to Philosophy/First Day Examples
- The Nature, Functions, and Scope of Arguments
- Language and Meaning
- Problems and Fallacies of Meaning
- Belief, Truth, and, Knowledge/Types of Propositions
- Problems and Fallacies of Truth
- Reasoning about Goodness: Normative Claims and Arguments
- Reason and Relevance/Fallacies of Relevance
- Psychological and Cognitive Biases
- Consistency and Movement/ Review of Fallacies
- Introduction to Deductive Reasoning/Aristotle's Categorical Logic (ACL)
- Applying ACL to evaluating arguments
- Truth-Functional Logic
- Introduction to Inductive Reasoning/Judgement and Generalization
- Introduction to Reasoning about Statistics/Separating the Signal from the Noise
- Inductive Analogy and Inductive Explanation
- Scientific Methods
- Presenting, Analyzing, and Evaluating Extended Arguments for Different Audiences