



2026 Camp Season

Guide for Educational Consultants

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“My students loved Great Books and reported that it opened their eyes to read better and think more deeply.”

– **Neeraj Mandhana, College Counselor**

“Each summer, students...attend lectures, participate in discussions, eat meals, and live together as a community of precocious thinkers.”

– **Emily Esfahani Smith,
The Wall Street Journal**



AT A GLANCE

A strong fit for families who want more than a typical summer program. Programs combine serious academics, prestigious college settings, college level faculty, talented mentorship, an intellectually engaged peer group, and plenty of social activities!

FOCUS

Developing core skills that give students an edge across all disciplines and in life: Critical thinking, Self-expression, Writing, Civil discourse, Leadership

GRADE LEVELS

Rising grades 6-8, 9-12 and gap year students.

SETTING

Residential, Day, and Online

SESSION LENGTH

One-week sessions. Can be combined for a multi-week experience.

WHEN

Summer, June to August and Winter Break.

LOCATION

Prestigious college campuses and culturally rich destinations abroad.

ADMISSIONS

Rolling admissions. Students must provide contact information for a teacher, counselor, or head of school who can supply a recommendation to attend on the student's behalf.

EVALUATION

Upon successful completion, students receive a Certificate of Completion and an Evaluation Letter appropriate for inclusion in college or boarding school applications.

DEMOGRAPHICS

85% of students are from the US and 15% are international. Great Books alumni hail from over 45 countries around the world. Students go on to attend some of the top colleges and enter careers in every discipline including engineers, physicians, attorneys, Broadway producers, published authors and college professors.

SUPERVISION

A fully supervised experience. Students are mentored by talented program assistants who are upper year undergraduates, graduate students, and teachers.

COST

Ranges from \$895 - \$3,575 per week depending on program and location.

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

Yes.

“Every year that I have gone to camp, I have been able to have unique experiences. The campers all have something incredible to bring to camp, and the staff are some of the kindest individuals I have ever met.”

– Zoe C., Student

“What more can a parent ask? To send a kid away for a literature camp and have them come back inspired, having learned more in one week than some kids in a year?”

– Jill W., Parent

Benefits

Academic Rigor

Students engage in genuine intellectual work through close readings, thoughtful writing, and lively seminar-style discussion.

Discussion-based Learning

Programs are led in Socratic style “Shared Inquiry” discussion, helping students practice analytical reading, critical thinking, reasoned self-expression, and respectful dialog. Students explore humanity’s big ideas within a community of new friends, readers, thinkers, and leaders and find the path to their own best thinking.

Exceptional Faculty and Mentors

Students learn from world-class educators, scholars, and subject experts who know how to challenge and inspire bright students. Prize-winning authors, scholars, and teachers, our faculty’s wide range of interests and backgrounds enrich each student’s experience.

Strong Student Community

Participants join a welcoming community of thoughtful, motivated peers from around the world.

Prestigious campus experience

Programs take place on beautiful college campuses, offering students both academic immersion and a memorable residential summer experience.

Student Experience

Each day is a wonderful balance of interactive seminar time led by professors and scholars, small discussion groups led by Program Assistants (PAs), enriching electives led by talented professionals, sharing meals together, and fun social activities.

Students are grouped into small “pods” of typically 6-10 students per PAs. Residential students are assigned to single, double, or triple rooms and housed by gender and age.

Outcomes

Best Fit for Students Who Are:

- Bright, curious, and academically motivated.
- Excited by ideas, books, writing, or discussion.
- Looking for intellectual peers.
- Ready for a meaningful residential experience.
- Interested in growing in confidence, communication, and depth of thought.

Benefits:

- Build critical thinking and analytical skills.
- Gain confidence interacting with professor and scholars in a college setting.
- Develop new powers of perception and self-expression.
- Build reasoning, writing, and leadership skills.
- Make friends from around the world.
- Portfolio review (Advanced Writing)
- Capstone Project (Entrepreneurship program)

Students Leave With:

- Stronger critical thinking skills.
- Greater confidence in discussion and self-expression.
- Deeper engagement with literature and ideas.
- A richer sense of academic possibility.
- A memorable and often transformative summer experience.

What Families Value:

- Intellectual seriousness without sacrificing fun.
- A safe, supervised residential environment.
- Inspiring faculty and mentors.
- A welcoming and respectful culture.
- A clear sense of educational value.

2026 Programs

Great Books & Big Ideas

Discussion-based explorations into literature, philosophy and history as a catalyst to develop skills in critical thinking, close reading, reasoning and self-expression.

*Rising Grades 6-8, 9-12, Gap Year
on the campuses of Amherst College, Haverford College, Stanford University*

Writer's Workshops

Welcoming environment for beginner and advanced writers. Skill-building, voice development, and portfolio-building. High school sessions include genre-specific tracks and workshoping with peers.

*Rising Grades 6-8, 9-12, Gap Year
on the campuses of Amherst College, Stanford University*

Literary Travel & Writing Programs

Combines pre-college learning and cultural exploration in fully curated and supervised experiences. Students explore vibrant, historic cities and build critical thinking skills while diving into the writings and ideas of influential local authors and thinkers.

*Rising Grades 9-12, Gap Year
University of Oxford, Trinity College Dublin, Athens, and Verona.*

Berkshires Writer's Adventure

Immersive, location-based writing adventure. Students study the techniques and key texts of influential local authors and craft their own works in iconic and inspirational local settings.

*Rising Grades 9-12, Gap Year
on the campus of Amherst College*

Leadership Programs

Expert led, immersive programs building leadership skills in debate, persuasive communication, strategic thinking, team-building, and more. Interactive problem-solving and hands-on projects.

*Rising Grades 9-12, Gap Year
on the campus of Haverford College*

Critical Thinking for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Expert lead, highly interactive program designed to spark creativity while building the skills and mindset that drive visionary thinking. Students complete a capstone project selecting a venture to either imagine and launch or rescue and reinvent.

*Rising Grades 9-12, Gap Year
on the campus of Stanford University*

Freedom, Government, & Law

Special week of Great Books & Big Ideas celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of America. Students dive into the fiery debates and bold ideas that forged our democratic republic.

*Rising Grades 6-8, 9-12, Gap Year
on the campus of Amherst College*

Great Books Summer Program is independent of Amherst College, Stanford University, Haverford College, Trinity College Dublin, and University of Oxford who are owners of their trademarks.



2026 Campuses, Programs, Dates, & Rates

On the Campus of	Select a Program	Camp Dates	High School	Middle School	Residential Tuition	Day Tuition
Amherst	Freedom, Government, & Law	June 28 - July 4	•	•	\$2765	\$1565
Amherst	Great Books & Big Ideas	July 5 - July 11	•	•	\$2765	\$1565
Amherst	Berkshires Writer's Adventure	July 5 - July 11	•		\$3095	—
Amherst	Great Books & Big Ideas	July 12 - July 18	•	•	\$2765	\$1565
Amherst	Writer's Workshop	July 12 - July 18	•		\$2765	\$1565
Amherst	Writer's Workshop	July 19 - July 25	•	•	\$2765	\$1565
Stanford	Writer's Workshop	June 28 - July 4	•	•	\$3575	\$2175
Stanford	Great Books & Big Ideas	July 5 - July 11	•	•	\$3575	\$2175
Stanford	Great Books & Big Ideas	July 12 - July 18	•	•	\$3575	\$2175
Stanford	Entrepreneurship	July 12 - July 18	•		\$3575	\$2175
Haverford	Great Books & Big Ideas	July 26 - Aug 1	•	•	\$2765	\$1565
Haverford	Great Books & Big Ideas	Aug 2 - Aug 8	•	•	\$2765	\$1565
Haverford	Leadership—Reasoning	July 26 - Aug 1	•		\$3265	—
Haverford	Leadership—Strategy	Aug 2 - Aug 8	•		\$3265	—
Athens	Literary Travel	June 28 - July 4	•		\$3575	—
Verona & Venice	Literary Travel	July 5 - July 11	•		\$3575	—
Dublin	Literary Travel Writers	July 12 - July 18	•		\$3575	—
Oxford	Literary Travel Writers	July 19 - July 25	•		\$3575	—
Oxford	Literary Travel	July 26 - Aug 1	•		\$3575	—
Online - USA	Writer's Workshop	July 5 - July 10	•	•	—	\$895
Online - USA	Great Books & Big Ideas	July 12 - July 17	•	•	—	\$895
Online - Asia	Great Books & Big Ideas	July 19 - July 24	•	•	—	\$895
Online - Asia	Writer's Workshop	July 26 - July 31	•	•	—	\$895

Registration fee, materials and events fees, airport transportation, and weekend stay fees may also apply.

If there is any other information you would like to have at your fingertips, please let us know. We are here and happy to help you recommend the best programs for your students.

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