

During my time as an undergraduate at the University of Rochester, I was a teaching assistant for Dr. Stocchi-Peruchio. The class was focused on the figure of Dante and analyzing *The Divine Comedy*. The beauty of the class was that it was cross listed under many departments (e.g., Religion, English, Italian, Anthropology, etc.) The students I taught reflected the interdisciplinary methodology of the class itself. Students submitted weekly writing assignments called “Fact Sheets” where they were expected to summarize Dante’s arguments and analyze physical manifestations of *The Divine Comedy* to examine how they reflected his work. For example, popular works of art by Gustave Doré or music such as *In exitu Israel*. If a student struggled with concepts or writing, I would meet with them one on one during my office hours to support their ideas but refine their approach. Within the broader setting of the classroom, I would often facilitate communication between students regarding the ideas that they presented in their writing. Often, this would lead to robust conversations about summary, analysis, and the application of Dante to various fields.

I endeavor to foster an environment where a student’s curiosity about scholarship can flourish, regardless of discipline or concentration. As a student myself, because we truly never stop learning, I believe writing is a key component to fostering curious scholarship. I was once told by one of mentors, Dr. Anne Merideth, writing is a skill like any other. Hence, writing needs to be practiced and refined. This practice and refinement come with spending time finding one’s own writing techniques that are best suited to their needs and capabilities. I strive to provide students with the tools necessary to cultivate their curiosity through writing. It is important to state that within my work, I too am endlessly seeking to better my writing. I see my time as an instructor as a time for true collaboration between scholars. Indeed, I believe writing is a key component to encourage this collaboration in and out of the university.