

" Writing, and lots of it,
is as basic to the armed forces as
webbing or ammunition."

William A. McIntosh

Seminar in applying the principles of rhetoric to the analysis and production of written communications used by junior officers. Cadets will use classical and contemporary rhetorical theory to explore the functions, purposes, and audiences of military writing genres from all branches. The cultivation of lifelong capacities for using rhetorical structures to think analytically, argue effectively, and communicate clearly will be emphasized.

lead soldiers through earning respect
make and justify decisions
train, evaluate, and counsel soldiers
advise superiors

analyzing and responding
to human nature
researching to find accurate
and precise information
making strong cases for
decisions and recommendations
adapting your communication
to specific audiences
speaking and writing with
correctness, clarity, and effect



Preparing for a
military career
with the VMI English major




" My duties cover maintaining and monitoring equipment readiness for the entire battalion. I use the

I learned as an English major, especially in courses for my Rhetoric and Writing Concentration, when preparing PowerPoint

The higher-order skill is listening to understand what the other person wants to communicate, followed by knowing what you want to communicate."

Public Affairs Officer
Scott Air Force Base, IL

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VMI Chief of Staff COL Inman has Master's degrees in Liberal Arts from LSU and in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University. His most recent assignment was Commander of the National Capitol Region Warrior Transition Brigade. Other assignments include Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Cadet Command; Field Artillery Branch Chief, Human Resources Command; and Commander 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 101st Airborne Division.