

An Outline of Sister Miriam Joseph's
The Trivium

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I. The Liberal Arts

A. Trivium - pertains to mind

1. Logic
2. Grammar
3. Rhetoric

B. Quadrivium - pertains to matter

1. Arithmetic
2. Geometry
3. Astronomy
4. Music

C. Language Arts - the correct and effective use of language

1. *Phonetics* - how to combine sounds and form spoken words properly
2. *Spelling* - how to combine letters and form written words properly
3. *Grammar* - how to combine words to form sentences properly
4. *Rhetoric* - how to combine sentences into larger structures
5. *Logic* - how to combine concepts in a truthful, reasoned way

D. Norms of Language Arts

1. *Correctness* - the norm of phonetics, spelling, and grammar
2. *Effectiveness* - the norm of rhetoric
3. *Truth* - the norm of logic

II. The Nature and Function of Language

A. Means of Communication

1. **Imitation** - an artificial likeness, for example:
 - a. Paintings
 - b. Photographs
 - c. Statues
2. **Symbol** - an arbitrary sign upon which meaning is imposed
 - a. *Common* - a symbol of a common language (e.g., English)
 - b. *Special* - a symbol of a specialized language (e.g., chemistry)

B. Terms of Essence

1. *Essence* - that which makes a being what it is
2. *Species* - the set of all beings sharing an essence
3. *Genus* - a set of more than one species
4. *Aggregate* - a set of more than one individuals

C. Imposition and Intention

1. Imposition
 - a. *Zero imposition* - discussing properties of a sign other than its meaning
 - b. *First imposition* - using a word only in relation to its meaning
 - c. *Second imposition* - refers both to the sign and the meaning (grammar)
2. Intention
 - a. *First intention* - refers to reality
 - b. *Second intention* - refers to the concept (logic)

III. General Grammar

A. Categorematic vs. Syncategorematic Words

1. *Categorematic words* - significant by themselves
 - a. *Substantives* - nouns, pronouns
 - b. *Attributives* - verbs, adjectives (primary); adverbs (secondary)
2. *Syncategorematic words* - only significant in combination with other words
 - a. *Definitives* - articles, pronominals
 - b. *Connectives* - prepositions, conjunctions
 - c. *Copula* - connects subject and predicate

B. Substantives

1. Concrete vs. Abstract
 - a. *Concrete* - an existing object (e.g., “woman”)
 - b. *Abstract* - a conception (e.g., “femininity”)
2. Characteristics of Substantives
 - a. Number (singular or plural)
 - b. Gender (masculine, feminine, neuter)
 - c. Person
 - (1) *First person* - speaker
 - (2) *Second person* - receiver of speech
 - (3) *Third person* - person spoken of
 - d. Case
 - (1) *Nominative* - performs the action
 - (2) *Genitive* - possessor
 - (3) *Dative* - the term to which the action proceeds
 - (4) *Accusative* - receives the action

C. Attributives

1. Verbs
 - a. Express an attribute with a sense of time; make an assertion
 - b. *Transitive* verbs flow from subject to object; *intransitive* verbs stay with the agent
 - c. *Tense* - temporal relation between the act and its being spoken of
 - d. *Mood* - expresses relation between subject and predicate
 - (1) *Indicative* - expresses a matter of fact
 - (2) *Potential* - expresses a possibility
 - (3) *Interrogative* - requests information
 - (4) *Volitive* - expresses a wish or desire
2. Verbals
 - a. Do not assert or express mode
 - b. *Infinitives* - standard dictionary form of a verb (e.g., “to take”)
 - c. *Gerunds* - end in “-ing” and function as nouns
 - d. *Participles* - end in “-ed” or “-ing” and function as adjectives
3. Adjectives - Unlike verbs or verbals, adjectives express attributes with no notion of time
4. Adverbs - *Secondary* attributives in that they modify primary attributives (e.g., verbs and adjectives)

D. **Definitives** - single out an individual (“this”) or group (“those”)

E. **Connectives** - connect words and sentences

1. *Prepositions* - connect words and show their relation (e.g., “in” or “behind”)

2. *Conjunctions* - join independent clauses or sentences

a. May **conjoin**, that is, join sentences and meaning (e.g., “and”)

b. May **disjoin**, or join sentences but not meanings (e.g., “but” or “or”)

F. **The Pure Copula** - links a subject with a predicate (e.g., “The book **is** on the table.”)

IV. **Terms and Their Grammatical Equivalents**

V. **Propositions and Their Grammatical Expression**

VI. **Relations of Simple Propositions**

VII. **The Simple Syllogism**

VIII. **Relations of Hypothetical and Disjunctive Propositions**

IX. **Fallacies**

X. **A Brief Summary of Inductions**

XI. **Composition and Reading**