

An Outline of Sister Miriam Joseph's
The Trivium

Shane Michael Sexton

May 17, 2019

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* - express a matter of fact
 - (2) *Potential* - express a possibility
 - (3) *Interrogative* - request information
 - (4) *Volitive* - expresses a wish or desire
2. Verbals
3. Adjectives
4. Adverbs

D. Definitives

E. Connectives

F. The Pure Copula

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