

An Outline of Sister Miriam Joseph's  
*The Trivium*

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May 17, 2019

## I. The Liberal Arts

### A. Trivium - pertain to mind

1. Logic
2. Grammar
3. Rhetoric

### B. Quadrivium - pertain 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 and 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

### 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