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BOOK I

Rhetoric As It Concerns the Speaker (The Three Types of Speech)

Lesson I: The Scope and Purpose of Rhetoric



WEEK 1

Reading Exercise: Read and mark *How to Read a Book*, Chapter 5, "How to Make a Book Your Own" and "The Three Kinds of Note-making."

☐ Read and apply Adler's marking rules to this and all subsequent readings in Aristotle's *Rhetoric*.

Exercises for Day 1. Read and mark Chapter I, section 1354a. Here Aristotle identifies rhetoric as an art and discusses its boundaries. He also explains how it is distinct from its coordinate discipline: dialectic.

1. What is rhetoric? See definition at the beginning of Chapter 2.

2. What is dialectic? You might need to look this up in a good dictionary.

3. How does Aristotle justify his statement that everyone makes use of dialectic and rhetoric?

4. How does Aristotle justify his belief that rhetoric is an art?

5. What is an art? An encyclopedia would be helpful on this question. Does Aristotle use the term in the same sense as we normally use it? If not, how does it differ?

6. What does Aristotle think is the chief defect of the way rhetoric was taught by the teachers of the time? Pay attention here to all the comments Aristotle makes about "these writers" or the "current treatises."

Exercises for Day 2: Read Chapter I, section I354b. Aristotle distinguishes between forensic and legal oratory by distinguishing the role of the judge from that of the legislator.

7. What is the role of a judge, according to Aristotle, and how does it differ from that of a legislator?

8. According to Aristotle, why do writers of rhetoric textbooks generally ignore political oratory?

9. Which form of oratory, forensic (legal), or political, does Aristotle think is nobler? Why?

Exercises for Day 3: Read Chapter I, section I355a. Aristotle discusses demonstration and enthymeme: the manifestation of demonstration in rhetoric. He also lists the four uses of rhetoric.

10. What form does demonstration take in rhetoric?

11. What is an enthymeme?

12. What are the four uses of rhetoric given by Aristotle?

1.

2.

3.

4.

13. If a judge rules improperly, who is at fault, according to Aristotle?

14. What reason does Aristotle give for the necessity in rhetoric of being able to argue both sides of a question?

Exercises for Day 4: Read Chapter I, section I355b. Aristotle discusses the function of rhetoric and the double meaning of the term "rhetoric."

15. How does Aristotle differentiate the function of rhetoric from the function of dialectic?

16. What was Aristotle's chief purpose in this first chapter?

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across its entire width, providing a template for handwriting practice or general note-taking. The margins are consistent on all sides.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

WEEK 2

Figures of Speech

Asyndeton (a-syn'-de-ton): An omission of a conjunction.

Example: Jane could not take her eyes from her mother's hands. They had a way of doing things, peeling apples, sprinkling salt, counting pennies, that fascinated her. (*The Moffats* by Eleanor Estes)

Polysyndeton (pol'-y-syn'-de-ton): The repetition of the word "and" at the beginning of successive phrases.

Example: Near them, on the sand, / Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown, / And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command, / Tell that its sculptor well those passions read. ("Ozymandias" by Percy Bysshe Shelley)

- ☐ Read *Figures of Speech*, pp. 1-13
- ☐ Complete the Figures of Speech Worksheet (Appendix A)