

Common Topic: Lesson One

The Classical Composition V Student Guide is abbreviated SG below.

The first lesson provides a model Common Topic essay, Aphthonius's "Against a Tyrant." The assignment is to:

- **paraphrase** each part of the essay
- add **figures of description** and **figures of speech**
- **combine the parts** into a paraphrase of the whole model essay
- **revise** it
- and **present** your paraphrase to your instructors.

To present your essay, please bring **two printed copies**: one for you to read from, and one for your instructor to follow along in.

—

The following are meant to clarify some details of the lesson's instructions and guide you through it.

For the **parts of a Common Topic essay**, see Aphthonius's description (Student Guide 8, 109), the terms list (SG 9), and the teaching guidelines (SG 4-5).

Read the **model**: Aphthonius's "Against a Tyrant" (SG 10).

For each heading in this lesson, write a **paraphrase or variation** of the provided section from the model essay where it says to write your answer. (See lesson title; clarified in the Teacher Guide, pages 11ff.)

The instructions frequently refer to **head(s) of purpose** (beginning SG 11, especially SG 19); see the definition (SG 9).

The lesson asks you to add the following **figures of description** (definitions SG 96-103) and **figures of speech** (definitions SG 104-108). Look up the definition and examples provided for each of the terms listed below before using each. I've provided the page numbers where you are asked to use the figures, and the page numbers providing definitions and examples.

- anemographia: use on SG 12; defined SG 96
- enallage: use on SG 13; defined SG 105
- sermocinatio: use on SG 14; defined SG 102
- astrothesia: use on SG 15; defined SG 96
- antonomasia: use on SG 16; defined SG 105
- chorographia: use on SG 17; defined SG 96
- periphrasis: use on SG 18; defined SG 108
- chronographia: use on SG 19; defined SG 97
- metaphor: use on SG 20; defined SG 106

Narrative components: use on SG 13, 14, 17; these clarifying questions come from the corresponding pages in the Teacher Guide:

- Recognition: What truth is demonstrated?
- Reversal: What phrase reveals the truth?
- Suffering: What suffering occurs?
- Agent: Who acts?
- Action: What do the agents do?
- Time: When is the action?
- Place: Where is the action?
- Manner: How is the action done?
- Cause: Why is the action done?