

HANDOUT FOR LESSON TWELVE THE PRESENTATION OF THE LESSON

THOMAS SHERIDAN'S RULES FOR STANDING

Before you can persuade a man into any opinion, he must first be convinced that you believe it yourself. This he can never be, unless the tones of voice in which you speak come from the heart, accompanied by corresponding looks, and gestures, which naturally result from a man who speaks in earnest.

His attention to the natural or biological bases of speech can be seen from his description of how emotions are created:

The tones expressive of sorrow, lamentation, mirth, joy, hatred, anger, love, &c. are the same in all nations, and consequently can excite emotions in us analogous to those passions, when accompanying words which we do not understand: nay the very tones themselves, independent of words, will produce the same effects.

PRONUNCIATION RULES FOR CHILDREN

- Too slightly sounding the vowels
- Pronouncing s indistinctly after st
- Pronouncing w for v, and inversely
- Not sounding h after w
- Not sound h where it ought to be sounded and inversely
- Suppressing e where it should be pronounced, and pronouncing it where is should be suppressed
- Pronouncing too rapidly
- A monotonous sameness of voice.

PRONUNCIATION RULES, ESPECIALLY FOR ORAL READING

- Let your articulation be distinct and deliberate.
- Let your pronunciation be bold and forcible.
- Acquire a compass and variety in the height of your voice.
- Pronounce your words with propriety and elegance.
- Pronounce every word consisting of more than one syllable with its proper accent.
- In every sentence, distinguish the most significant words by a natural, forcible, and varied emphasis.
- Acquire a just variety of pause and cadence.
 - Accompany the emotions and passions which your words express, by correspondent tones, looks and gestures.

The source for the complete notes used by the teacher in the presentation of this lesson. To enable you to see and hear the presentation of this lesson, and of many others, both flash and itunes formats are available. For those who just want to hear, an audio record of the class is available.

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A Statement by Nosoponus in Ciceronianus, or
A Dialogue on the Best Style of Speaking by
Desiderius Erasmus

How can that happen to one who has no public life? But if I should have occasion I am not better than Demosthenes, who would never get up unless he had prepared himself however much he was called by the shouts of the people. And I could not think that I need be ashamed of what is praised in the chief orator among the Greeks or that I should be sorry for the censure if any one should say τὸν λόγον ἀπόζειν.¹¹



Statue of Cicero



Bust of Demosthenes

For, since eloquence consists of words and sentences, we must endeavour, by speaking in a pure and correct manner, that is to say in good Latin, to attain an elegance of expression with words appropriate and metaphorical.

--Cicero

¹ That my language was bookish.

¹ Erasmus, D. (1908). *Ciceronianus or A Dialogue on the Best Style of Speaking* (I. Scott, Trans.) (33). New York: Teachers College, Columbia University.

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