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Lesson 1: Paraphrase of Aphthonius' Thesis:

Thesis: Should One Marry?

Read aloud the Introduction.

Whoever wishes to praise the universe briefly should praise marriage. *[Credit]* It came from heaven—or, rather, it filled heaven with the gods and established their father, from whom the very title of father is derived. And having produced the gods he allowed nature to preserve them. Then he came to earth and gave the power of reproduction to all other things; he changed what does not know permanence and contrived permanence for them through their descendants. *[Exposition]* And first of all, he stirs up men to bravery; for since marriage is able to produce wives and children, in whose defense wars are fought, he confers vigor by his gifts. *[Legality]* Secondly, he makes men just as well as brave; for since he is the provider of children, out of concern for whom men act justly, marriage renders men just as well as brave. *[Justice]* Wise, too, since he inspires men to take thought for their nearest and dearest. *[Expedience]* And—a paradox—marriage is able to confer self-control, and in his lavish provision of pleasure is intermixed self-control; for since it imposes law on pleasure, self-control provides pleasures lawfully, and what is condemned in itself is admired when combined with marriage. *[Possibility]* So if marriage produces gods, and after them each successive generation, and renders men at once brave and just, and makes men wise and moderate, is not marriage to be held in the utmost possible honor? *[Thesis Statement]*

Basis

Write a general truth that stands as the Basis for the Thesis Question.

Thesis Question

Write a question that the Thesis Statement will answer.

Introduction

Paraphrase Aphthonius' Introduction using the following outline.

Credit (Statement of Praise)

Referring to Aphthonius' model, paraphrase his Credit:

Exposition

Referring to Aphthonius' model, write the nine narrative components of his Exposition and a paraphrase:

Recognition _____

Reversal _____

Suffering _____

Thesis Statement

Referring to Aphthonius' model, paraphrase his Thesis Statement:

Read aloud the remainder of Aphthonius' Thesis.

"Yes," someone says, "but marriage is the cause of misfortunes." [*Counterpoint 1-Inexpediency*] I think you are bringing a charge against fortune, not marriage. [*Resolution—Consequence*] What men suffer in adversity is the product of fortune, not marriage; what marriage lavishes upon mankind is not gained by chance. [*Paraphrase*] So marriage should be admired for the blessings it contains, not criticized for the evils which fortune dispenses. [*Epilogue (serving as transition/summary)*] (Continued on next page)

And yet even if we ascribe to marriage the worst features of human life, is that any more reason to abstain from marriage? [*Justice*] The disagreeable aspects of any activity do not make one abandon it. [*Paraphrase*] Consider one by one the trades in which the thing you are criticizing is present. Thunderbolts cause trouble for farmers and hailstorms ruin them; but farmers do not abandon their land because a thunderbolt destroys it; they go on with their farming, even if something comes from heaven that causes damage. [*Analogy*] Men suffer ill fortune at sea and storms wreck their ships; but they do not give up seafaring because they have suffered in their turn, but ascribe their difficulties to fortune and await the income that comes from the sea. [*Analogy*] Battles and wars bring physical destruction on those who fight them; but death in battle does not make them avoid battles, but because they are admired for fighting, they are content to die and efface the misfortune by its attendant good. [*Analogy*] For one should not shun what is good because of what is bad; one should endure the worst because of what is fine. [*Paraphrase*] So it is absurd if farmers, sailors, and soldiers too bear the hardships of their calling for the sake of the praiseworthy things associated with them, while we dishonor marriage because it brings a certain distress. [*Epilogue (serving as transition/summary)*]

"Yes," he says, "but it brings widowhood on women, orphanhood on children."

[*Counterpoint 2-Inexpediency*] These evils result from death, which is an affliction of our nature. [*Resolution-Consequence*] You seem to be criticizing marriage because it does not turn men into gods, and to condemn marriage because it does not reckon mortals with gods. [*Paraphrase*] Tell me, why do you blame marriage for what death brings about? [*Paraphrase*] Why do you attribute to weddings what is in nature's power? [*Paraphrase*] Concede the death of one born to die. But if men die because they are born, and in dying leave their mate a widow and make an orphan of their offspring, why do you say that marriage has done what is the result of nature alone? [*Epilogue (serving as transition/summary)*]

I, on the contrary, believe that marriage corrects orphanhood and widowhood.

[*Resolution-Honor*] Someone's father has died, and the child is an orphan; but marriage brings a second father for the orphans, and the affliction, which is not the outcome of marriage, is effaced by marriage; marriage is the abolition of orphanhood, not its occasion. [*Cause*] Then again, nature produces widowhood from death, but marriage changes it by a wedding. The woman whom death made a widow, marriage grants to live with a husband, as if standing guard over its own favor; for what it conferred in the beginning it restores when taken away. So marriage is able to remove widowhood, not to inflict it. [*Cause*] Furthermore, a father is deprived of children by death, but through marriage he has a share in others, and he becomes

Counterpoint 5

Write your own fifth Counterpoint and identify the Head of Purpose: _____.

Counterpoint 6

Write your own sixth Counterpoint and identify the Head of Purpose: _____.

Paragraph 1

Use the following outline to paraphrase Aphthonius.

Counterpoint 1

Write your paraphrase of the first Counterpoint and identify the Head of Purpose used: _____.

Resolution

Referring to Aphthonius' model, paraphrase his Resolution and identify the Head of Purpose used: _____.

I think you are bringing a charge against fortune, not marriage.

Development

Referring to Aphthonius' model, paraphrase his Development and identify the Head of Development used: _____.

What men suffer in adversity is the product of fortune, not marriage; what marriage lavishes upon mankind is not gained by chance.

Epilogue (serving as transition/summary)

Referring to Aphthonius' model, paraphrase his Epilogue:

So marriage should be admired for the blessings it contains, not criticized for the evils which fortune dispenses.

Epilogue (serving as transition/summary)

Referring to Aphthonius' model, paraphrase his Epilogue.

So it is absurd if farmers, sailors, and soldiers too bear the hardships of their calling for the sake of the praiseworthy things associated with them, while we dishonor marriage because it brings a certain distress.

Paragraph 3

Use the following outline to paraphrase Aphthonius.

Counterpoint 2

Write your paraphrase of the second Counterpoint and identify the Head of Purpose used: _____.

Resolution

Referring to Aphthonius' model, paraphrase his Resolution and identify the Head of Purpose used: _____.

These evils result from death, which is an affliction of our nature.

Development

Referring to Aphthonius' model, paraphrase his Development. Identify the Heads of Development used: _____.

You seem to be criticizing marriage because it does not turn men into gods, and to condemn marriage because it does not reckon mortals with gods. Tell me, why do you blame marriage for what death brings about? Why do you attribute to weddings what is in nature's power?

Epilogue (serving as transition/summary)

Referring to Aphthonius' model, paraphrase his Epilogue.

What then? You are turning the blessings of marriage into criticism, and I think you are trying to praise marriage, not to disgrace it; since you force us to enumerate the favors which marriage gives, you have become a supporter, not a critic, of marriage. Moreover, your attack on marriage compels us to admire it and you make a catalog of benefactions out of the charges you bring against marriage.

Paragraph 5

Use the following outline to paraphrase Aphthonius.

Counterpoint 3

Write your paraphrase of the third Counterpoint and identify the Head of Purpose used: _____.

Resolution

Referring to Aphthonius' model, paraphrase his Resolution and identify the Head of Purpose used: _____.

What is it but marriage that can put an end to toil?

Development

Referring to Aphthonius' model, paraphrase his Development. Identify the Heads of Development used: _____.

All toil is taken away by marriage, and for most, coming together in harmony with another is restful. What a joy it is for a man to find union with his wife! With what delight a child is looked forward to; and, when expected, appears; and, when he appears, says, "father"; and starts to learn his trade, and works alongside his father, and speaks in the assembly, and cares for his father in old age, and in general does all that he ought!
