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LESSON I

# The Scope and Purpose of Rhetoric

*EXERCISES FOR DAY 1: Read and mark\* Chapter 1, 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? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chapter 1

1354a

Dialectic and Rhetoric

Rhetoric as an art

*Read Figures of Speech, pp. 1-13, and memorize the following quotations.*

That government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

—Abraham Lincoln, “The Gettysburg Address”

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbour as thyself.

—Luke 10:27

Figures of Speech:

asyndeton  
polysyndeton

\* See reading exercise at the end of this lesson.



Book 1: The Speaker

Chapter 1 (cont.)

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 teachers” or “these authors” or “our handbooks.”

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



In order to properly define something, one must identify its four causes. In light of Aristotle’s definition of rhetoric, identify its four causes. In doing so, you may want to take into account his additional discussion of the definition of rhetoric in the first paragraph of Book I, Chapter 2. Use the format given in Appendix D at the back of the book to answer this question.

Traditional Logic  
Review Exercise 1-1  
Review of Definition

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 1354 b

Forensic vs.  
Political oratory

*EXERCISES FOR DAY 2: Read Chapter 1, section 1354b. 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? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 1355a

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Translate the following quote into English. Give the form (tense, voice, and mood) for each of the verbs it contains. Indicate which two figures you studied this week it is an example of, then change it into the other figure and translate it back into Latin.

Veni, vidi, vici.  
—Julius Caesar

Latin  
Review Exercise 1-1

Translation: \_\_\_\_\_

Form: veni \_\_\_\_\_ vidi \_\_\_\_\_ vici \_\_\_\_\_

Figure of Speech: \_\_\_\_\_

In form of other figure in English: \_\_\_\_\_

In form of other figure in Latin: \_\_\_\_\_



Book I: The Speaker

Chapter 1 (cont.)

EXERCISES FOR DAY 3: Read Chapter 1, section 1355a. 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 1, section 1355b. 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? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

17. What does he say he is going to do in the next section? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Enthymeme:  
demonstration in rhetoric

The four uses of rhetoric

1355b

The function of  
rhetoric vs. the  
function of dialectic



Reading  
Exercise 1-1

Read and mark *How to Read a Book, Chapter 5, "How to Make a Book Your Own,"* and *"The Three Kinds of Notetaking."*

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