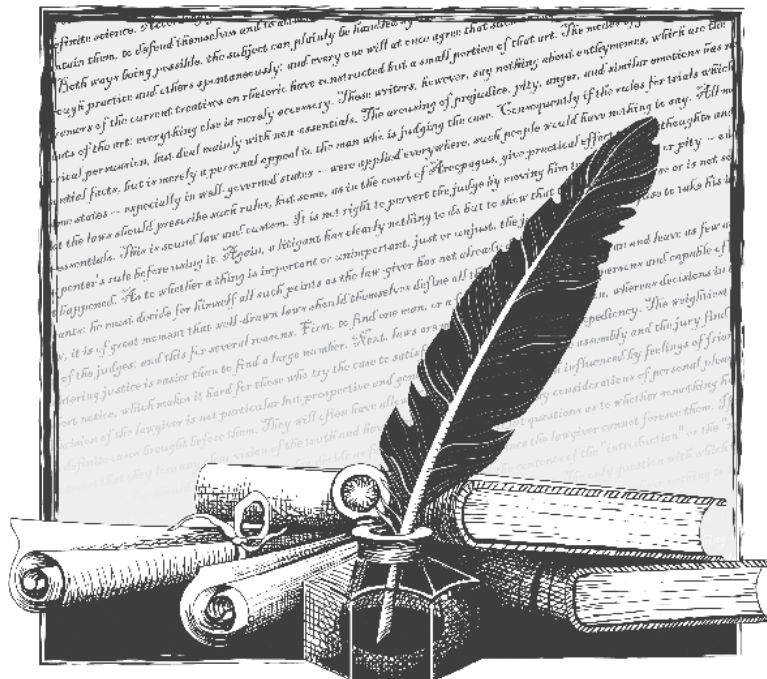


CLASSICAL *Composition*

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ENCOMIUM, INVECTIVE,
& COMPARISON STAGES

Discovering the Skills of Writing

STUDENT BOOK

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Encomium, Invective, and Comparison Stages

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Lesson 2: Encomium on an Individual: Chaucer

1. Prologue

You will have a Prologue referring to the subject in hand.

Heads of Purpose

The first sentence is complex and has two heads of purpose (e.g., honor and justice) that tell the purpose of encomiums in general.

Thesis

The thesis tells who or what you specifically intend to praise in this Encomium.

Heightener

The third sentence tells why you are praising this person, and it uses one of the seven heighteners:

1. Point out that a man is the only one who has done something.
2. Or the first who has done something.
3. Or almost the only one who has done something.
4. Or that he has done it better than anyone else.
5. Or make much of the particular season and occasion of an action, arguing that we could hardly have looked for it just then.
6. If a man has often achieved the same success, then mention this; he himself, and not luck, will then be given the credit.
7. So, too, if it is on his account that observances have been devised and instituted to encourage or honor such achievements as his own.

Attribution + Heightener

The fourth sentence states a good discovered by or attributed to this person and heightens either the good or the person with one of the seven heighteners.

2. Birth, Source, or Origin

Then you will place Birth, which you will divide into Nation, Homeland, Ancestors, and Parents.

Nation

Nation tells how the person was influenced by his country or nation. Find the narrative components and then write your answer.

Recognition _____
Reversal _____
Suffering _____
Agent _____
Action _____
Time _____
Place _____
Manner _____
Cause _____

Homeland

Homeland names the person's particular homeland (e.g., Athens). Find the narrative components and then write your answer.

Recognition _____
Reversal _____
Suffering _____
Agent _____
Action _____
Time _____
Place _____
Manner _____
Cause _____

Ancestors

Ancestors describes the person's ancestors (e.g., kings). Find the narrative components and then write your answer.

Recognition _____
Reversal _____
Suffering _____
Agent _____
Action _____
Time _____
Place _____
Manner _____
Cause _____

Parents

Parents names the person's parents. Find the narrative components and then write your answer.

Recognition _____
Reversal _____
Suffering _____
Agent _____
Action _____
Time _____
Place _____
Manner _____
Cause _____

3. Education

Then Education, which you will divide into Pursuits, Art, and Customs, which should all heighten praise.

Pursuits

Pursuits tells about the person's pursuits, aspirations, passions, or goals in life, which were influenced by his upbringing. Find the narrative components and then write your answer.

Recognition _____
Reversal _____
Suffering _____
Agent _____
Action _____
Time _____
Place _____
Manner _____
Cause _____

Art

Art tells about the skills the person learned, which relate to his pursuits. "Art" can be understood as works, production, effects, expression, or Aristotle's idea of art as the imitation of nature. Find the narrative components and then write your answer.

Recognition _____
Reversal _____
Suffering _____
Agent _____
Action _____
Time _____
Place _____

Manner _____
Cause _____

Customs

Customs tells what his effect on his culture or environment were. Find the narrative components and then write your answer.

Recognition _____
Reversal _____
Suffering _____
Agent _____
Action _____
Time _____
Place _____
Manner _____
Cause _____

4. Achievements

Then you will adduce the most important head of Encomium, Achievements, which you will divide into Soul (e.g., courage, practical wisdom), Body (e.g., beauty, speed, strength), and Fortune (e.g., power, wealth, friends).

Soul

The Achievements section is the largest and most important section in an Encomium. It begins with a “cause” paragraph called Soul that tells generally what the person did with his soul, such as feeling certain emotions, spiritual drives, motivations and desires, and showing certain qualities or virtues (e.g., showed prudence). Find the narrative components and then write your answer.

Recognition _____
Reversal _____
Suffering _____
Agent _____
Action _____
Time _____
Place _____
Manner _____
Cause _____

Body

The Body is a “cause” paragraph that describes the subject physically (e.g., beauty, speed, strength) or tells generally what he achieved with his actions. Find the narrative components and then write your answer.

Recognition _____
Reversal _____
Suffering _____
Agent _____
Action _____
Time _____
Place _____
Manner _____
Cause _____

Fortune

Fortune is an “example” paragraph that tells at least five specific successes or fortunes (e.g., power, wealth, friends) the person achieved. Find the narrative components and then write your answer.

Recognition _____
Reversal _____
Suffering _____
Agent _____
Action _____
Time _____
Place _____
Manner _____
Cause _____

5. Comparison

After these the Comparison, attaching greater weight to the subject of the Encomium through juxtaposition.

Subject

Subject asks if anyone will compare the person being praised to another specific person who is known for having done similar deeds.

Difference

Difference tells the difference between the purposes of their accomplishments.

Analogy

Analogy compares the men in the form of an analogy.

6. Epilogue

Then an Epilogue, more akin to a prayer.

The final paragraph is a compound sentence saying that if there were more time, the person being praised could continue to be praised because of how praiseworthy he is.

7. Final Draft

The Final Draft is a new context for practice in which to use and imitate proper writing mechanics and knowledge. Proofread your answers above and correct errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. On a separate sheet of paper, combine all the corrected answers into a final draft.

Add these figures:

- Dialogismus
- Onomatopoeia
- Effictio
- Synecdoche
- Hydrographia