

Lesson Two: The Art of Praise

Time to Prepare

Key Terms	
Manifested	To show or demonstrate, often used in the context of making something evident or observable.
Ecclesiastical	Related to the Christian Church or its clergy; pertaining to matters of the church.
Excommunicated	Official exclusion from participation in the sacraments and services of the Christian Church, usually as a penalty for serious sin.
Rescinded	Revoked or repealed; to cancel or annul a decision, order, or agreement.
Poignant	Evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret; emotionally moving.
Canonisation	The act or process of officially declaring someone to be a saint by the Catholic Church.
Reiterate	To say or do something again, often for emphasis or clarity.
Anecdotes	Short, interesting, and often humorous stories or accounts about real incidents or persons, used to convey a point or add a human touch to a narrative.

In this chapter, we will delve into the first essential step in mastering the art of Chreia composition.

The first step on our journey is learning how to praise the speaker or doer, or even praising the Chreia itself. This step is like the opening act of a play, setting the stage for all that follows. It's the part of the story where we acknowledge the source of wisdom, honor its origins, and establish credibility for our argument. This is our first paragraph. A paragraph is a group of related sentences that work together to express a single idea, topic, or theme. It is a fundamental building block of writing and is used to organise and present information in a coherent and structured manner. As we learn to write an art of praise paragraph, we will use a step-by-step approach to identify what needs to be included. There are 8 parts to the art of praise paragraph set out below.

1. Identify the Sayer or Doer: Start by clearly identifying the person or figure responsible for the Chreia or proverb. This could be an individual from history, a famous philosopher, a respected author, or any notable source.

2. **Research Their Background:** Conduct research to learn more about the sayer or doer. Understand their life, their contributions, and why they are considered wise or influential. Gather information about their accomplishments, experiences, and the context in which they lived. In this book, you will be given some information to learn about each individual.
3. **Highlight Their Wisdom or Actions:** Point out the wisdom, insight, or notable actions for which the sayer or doer is recognised. This could be their profound quotes, their remarkable deeds, or their impact on society and culture.
4. **Discuss Their Relevance:** Explain why the wisdom or actions of the sayer or doer is still relevant today. Discuss how their ideas or deeds continue to inspire, guide, or resonate with people.
5. **Share Anecdotes or Stories:** Share anecdotes, stories, or quotes that illustrate the wisdom or character of the sayer or doer. Personal stories or examples of their impact can make their qualities more relatable.
6. **Express Admiration:** Express your admiration for the sayer or doer. Discuss why you find their wisdom, actions, or character praiseworthy. Use heartfelt language to convey your respect.
7. **Relate to the Audience:** Connect the wisdom or actions of the sayer or doer to your audience's lives. Explain why their wisdom is relevant to the audience, how it can be applied, or how it can provide valuable insights.
8. **Make a Smooth Transition:** After praising the sayer or doer, transition smoothly to introducing the Chreia or proverb. This transition should help the audience see the connection between the source's wisdom and the Chreia.

By following these steps, you can effectively praise the sayer or doer of the Chreia or proverb, helping your audience understand and appreciate the source of wisdom and establish credibility for your argument.

Time to Revise

1. What comes first in the Chreia Composition: The Art of Praise?

Identify the Sayer or Doer: Begin by unmistakably attributing the Chreia or proverb to a specific individual or figure. This might involve referencing a historical figure, a renowned philosopher, a respected author, or any other notable source.

2. What comes second in the Chreia Composition: The Art of Praise?

Research Their Background: Engage in research to delve deeper into the individual who expressed the Chreia or proverb. Gain insights into their life, contributions, and the reasons behind their

reputation for wisdom or influence. Collect information about their achievements, experiences, and the historical context in which they existed.

3. What comes third in the Chreia Composition: The Art of Praise?

Highlight Their Wisdom or Actions: Point out the wisdom, insight, or notable actions for which the sayers or doers are recognized. This could be their profound quotes, their remarkable deeds, or their impact on society and culture.

4. What comes fourth in the Chreia Composition: The Art of Praise?

Discuss Their Relevance: Articulate the enduring relevance of the sayers or doers' wisdom or actions in the present day. Explore how their ideas or deeds persist in inspiring, guiding, or resonating with people.

5. What comes fifth in the Chreia Composition: The Art of Praise?

Share Anecdotes or Stories: Provide anecdotes, stories, or quotes that vividly demonstrate the wisdom or character of the sayers or doers. Personal narratives or instances showcasing their impact can enhance the relatability of their qualities.

6. What comes sixth in the Chreia Composition: The Art of Praise?

Express Admiration: Share your admiration for the sayers or doers, expressing why you find their wisdom, actions, or character commendable. Utilize heartfelt language to convey your deep respect for them.

7. What comes seventh in the Chreia Composition: The Art of Praise?

Relate to the Audience: Establish a connection between the wisdom or actions of the sayers or doers and the lives of your audience. Clarify the relevance of their wisdom to the audience, elucidating how it can be applied or offer valuable insights.

8. What comes eighth in the Chreia Composition: The Art of Praise?

Make a Smooth Transition: Following the commendation of the sayers or doers, seamlessly transition to introducing the Chreia or proverb. This transition should adeptly illustrate the correlation between the source's wisdom and the Chreia for the audience.

Time to Read

Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Saint Mary MacKillop led a remarkable life and left a legacy of many wise sayings for us to ponder. Born in Fitzroy, Melbourne, in 1842, she faced significant challenges, including financial struggles and the untimely death of her father. Despite these adversities, she displayed a passion for education and, in 1866, co-founded the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart with Father Julian Tenison Wood.

Saint Mary MacKillop's enduring commitment to education and social justice manifested in the establishment of numerous schools for underprivileged children across Australia. Her teachings extended beyond the classroom, emphasising that everyone, regardless of social background, deserved access to education. This commitment to all Catholic students is a hallmark of her legacy. She wanted even the poorest Catholic students to have access to a quality education.

However, her advocacy for reform and outspoken nature led to tensions with ecclesiastical authorities. In 1871, she was excommunicated by her local bishop, a shocking event within the Catholic community. Undeterred, Mary continued her work, and her excommunication was later rescinded in 1872, a testament to her unwavering dedication to her principles.

One of Saint Mary MacKillop's notable sayings encapsulates her philosophy: "Never see a need without doing something about it." This profound statement reflects her practical approach to social issues and her belief in taking concrete actions to make a positive impact.

Furthermore, Saint Mary MacKillop often emphasised the importance of forgiveness, stating, "Help one another, and forgive and forget anything painful in the past" (9 August, 1881). This saying reflects her deep understanding of the transformative power of forgiveness for personal well-being and societal harmony.

One poignant anecdote from the life of Mary MacKillop revolves around her personal struggle with ill health and how she drew on her deep faith during challenging times. Despite facing persistent health issues, including a severe stroke in 1902, Mary remained steadfast in her commitment to her mission. Rather than succumbing to despair, her unwavering faith became a source of strength and resilience. Mary drew on her understanding of suffering with her faith in Jesus "Do have courage. We must willingly and with constancy suffer, all that God sends for our good".

Another notable anecdote highlights Mary MacKillop's emphasis on the importance of prayer. Mary recognised prayer not only as a personal spiritual practice but also as a communal and transformative act. In the midst of her educational and charitable endeavors, she consistently prioritised moments of prayer, fostering a sense of connection with the divine and seeking guidance

for her mission. “The prayer of a humble heart is a powerful weapon” (Mary, 25 April, 1873) This anecdote underscores the integral role that prayer played in Mary MacKillop's life, emphasising the spiritual foundation that fueled her actions and decisions. Mary MacKillop passed away on August 8, 1909, leaving a remarkable legacy.

Mary MacKillop achieved the historic distinction of becoming Australia's first saint on October 17, 2010, a recognition of her exceptional contributions to education, social justice, and her unwavering faith. The canonisation process involves the verification of miracles attributed to the individual, and in Mary's case, two miracles played a pivotal role. The first miracle involved the inexplicable recovery of a woman from lung cancer, attributed to the intercession of Mary MacKillop. The second miracle centered around the healing of a child with leukemia. Mary MacKillop's legacy extends far beyond her canonisation, as her teachings and principles continue to inspire individuals globally. Her emphasis on education, social equality, and the transformative power of faith leaves an enduring impact, making her a revered figure in both the religious and secular realms in Australia and beyond.

Wise Sayings (Proverbs) by Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

- “Never see a need without doing something about it.” 1867
- “Our crosses are a little heavy, but God, our own good God, gives courage under them.” 1871
- “Never murmur at what you don’t understand and never listen to a murmerer.” 1872
- “Put kind constructions where you can, and where you cannot, be silent.” 1878
- “We must pray that God may direct us to do what will please God most and tend to the common good. 1881
- “With humility, charity and truth on our part, all will be well in the end.” 1883

Time To Discuss

10. **Annotate, using the appropriate symbols, the information about Saint Mary MacKillop.**

11. **Identify the Sayer or Doer:**

The individual in focus is Saint Mary MacKillop.

12. **Research Their Background (key dates):**

Saint Mary MacKillop, born in Fitzroy, Melbourne, in 1842, faced challenges and co-founded the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart in 1866. She was excommunicated in 1871, but this was rescinded in 1871. Mary understood what it meant to face personal injustice. In 1902 Mary suffered a stroke in 1902, and passed away in 1909. She was canonised and became Australia’s first Saint in 2010.

13. Highlight Their Wisdom or Actions:

Mary's enduring commitment to education and social justice manifested in establishing schools for underprivileged children. Her quote, "Never see a need without doing something about it," exemplifies her practical approach.

14. Discuss Their Relevance:

Mary MacKillop's ideas remain relevant as her legacy of providing quality education for all inspires efforts toward social equality. Her profound Catholic faith, even in the face of extreme hardship (either from her excommunication or her poor health) are a model of discipleship for all Australian Catholics today.

15. Share Anecdotes or Stories:

Mary's struggle with ill health, where she endured significant and lived with constant ongoing pain, and yet she saw this suffering as a gift from God. St. Mary MacKillop reflected: "Do have courage. We must willingly and with constancy suffer all that God sends for our good."

16. Express Admiration:

Admiring Mary's commitment to education, social justice, and resilience, her quotes reveal her praiseworthy character. Her belief in taking action and the transformative power of faith and forgiveness are commendable.

17. Relate to the Audience:

Mary's wisdom is relevant as it emphasises equal access to education and the transformative power of faith and forgiveness. Her quote, "The prayer of a humble heart is a powerful weapon," resonates with the audience's spiritual and personal growth.

18. Make a Smooth Transition:

a. Transitioning smoothly, Mary's teachings, as reflected in her quotes, set the stage for introducing the Chreia or proverb, creating a seamless connection.

19. Copy out two of Saint Mary MacKillop's wise sayings (Proverbs).

a. Choices will vary.

b. Choices will vary.

20. Rewrite in your own words one of your choices from question 20.

Answers will vary.

21. Explain what you could do to apply Saint Mary MacKillop's saying in your own life.

Answers will vary.

Time to Compose

- 23. Your teacher will read you a short passage – listen carefully. After your teacher has read it once they will read it again slowly and tell you where the punctuation is. You must write these sentences on the lines below – paying particular attention to your spelling and capitalisation.**

Saint Mary MacKillop's timeless wisdom offers invaluable guidance to students. In 1867, she imparted the principle, "Never see a need without doing something about it," encouraging proactive engagement with the challenges that surround us. In 1871, amidst life's burdens, she shared a profound perspective, stating, "Our crosses are a little heavy, but God, our own good God, gives courage under them," instilling courage and faith in facing difficulties. The year 1872 brought a lesson on resilience and discernment, advising, "Never murmur at what you don't understand and never listen to a murmurer," emphasising the importance of patience and avoiding negativity. In 1878, Mary MacKillop advocated for kindness and discretion with the counsel, "Put kind constructions where you can, and where you cannot, be silent," promoting a positive outlook and thoughtful silence in challenging situations. These sayings, brimming with wisdom and compassion, serve as beacons of inspiration for students navigating the complexities of life.

It is time to learn to write our first "Art of Praise" paragraph. This will be the first step in learning to write a Chreia Composition. In every lesson after this you will commence with writing this paragraph (and you will learn about writing each of the steps, until you are a master of writing Chreia Compositions).

- 1. In this composition you need to combine each of the questions (11-19) that you completed in the Time to Discuss section. Your paragraph must include the following: Identify the sayer of the Chreia (In this case Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop), provide some historical information about her, share an anecdote about Mary and explain why she is relevant today, express admiration and provide a sentence linking to her profound wisdom.**

Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop is the author of many profound words, who herself faced significant hardships in her life, growing up in Melbourne, having been born there in 1842. She faced a childhood of poverty and the early death of her father. A constant throughout Mary's life was a love of God, which led her to establish the Sisters of St Joseph in 1866. Her wisdom is drawn from her Catholic faith and her commitment to "...pray that God may direct us to do what will please God most and tend to the common good." Mary faced many challenges in life, including a devastating stroke; however, even in this dark and challenging time, Mary drew on the light of Christ: "Do have courage. We must willingly and with constancy suffer all that God sends for our good." Mary is to be admired for her enduring commitment to education, manifested in establishing schools for underprivileged children. This young Australian woman, from humble origins, became

Australia's first Saint in 2010. Her wise sayings can provide us with guidance and wisdom and be a call to action: "Never see a need without doing something about it." (Mary MacKillop, 1867)

Time to Present

Students should continue to revise and practice the poem "The Old Australian Ways" by Banjo Paterson. This will be presented at the end of Lesson 3.

Via Classica Sample