

THESIS.

Subject: Composition Horn.

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Composition is the art of expressing one's thoughts, or telling what we know.

The importance of teaching pupils to express their thoughts correctly cannot well be overestimated.

Composition writing has many advantages. It trains the pupil to think; gives him valuable training in language; cultivates a taste for good reading, and trains the mental powers.

The first great end in

written language work is to create a fondness for expressing one's thoughts in writing.

Composition should be taught in connection with language work. While studying language the pupil should at least be taught to write sentences correctly. He will then be able to express his thoughts more readily and correctly when he comes to study composition proper.

A class that has never been taught composition, should begin by copying their read-

ing lessons or sentences from books and papers. After the work has been copied, have them exchange slates and correct all mistakes, using the book, at first, for reference.

This will teach the pupils to observe closely and at the same time save the teacher time and labor.

The next step is to write from dictation. At first, the teacher may indicate the placing of capital letters and punctuation marks, but as the pupil advances,

he should decide for himself where the capital letters and punctuation marks should be placed.

The work is made still more difficult by having the pupils reproduce, in their own language, a story read or told by the teacher; or give them a picture and have each one tell all he can about it, then write a short story about it.

Oral composition should always precede written. Have the pupils talk freely

on the subject before asking them to write about it.

The key to composition work with young children is to lead them to see that writing compositions is nothing but writing their talk. Do not allow them to go to work feeling as if they are expected to write what they do not know.

The child's first efforts at original composition should be very simple and short.

The subjects may be chosen either by the teacher or the

pupils themselves. It is the teacher's duty to see that all subjects chosen are suitable and adapted to the pupil.

Encourage them to be original and express their thoughts naturally.

Teach them to make their writing neat and legible with no attempt at flourishing or fancy writing.

When the pupils have advanced far enough to read history and biography, it is a good plan to have them reproduce what they have

read in the form of a composition. Assign a subject as; Washington or Lincoln; have them read on the subject and then write an essay on what they have read. This exercise is valuable to teach the student to condense his knowledge and it also gives a taste for biographical reading.

Writing business forms is an important part of composition work. This includes receipts, checks, drafts, promissory notes etc. Teach them

to write letters, news paragraphs, telegrams, and applications for positions. In writing telegrams and business letters, the importance of condensing and yet not omit anything should be impressed on the mind of the pupil.

Students should be trained to analyze each subject carefully and prepare an outline of it before beginning to write. Everything pertaining to the subject should be read, and a note

book and pencil should always be at hand to jot down anything that may aid in writing the composition.

In correcting the work it is best to indicate the mistakes and have the pupil discover and correct the error himself.

It is a good plan to have these compositions read publicly. Set apart an afternoon for the reading of the compositions. Make the exercises as interesting as

possible and try to arouse
the interest of the school
in this work.

If the teacher is skill-
ful in teaching composi-
tion, the dread most pu-
pils have for this work
will soon vanish and it
will become a pleasure
rather than a disagree-
able task.

That teacher achieves
a great success and accom-
plishes a very valuable
work who makes compo-
sition writing a pleasant

task and composition
day to be regarded with
interest and delight.