

Topping, Ryan, "Logos: Rational Speech," in The Elements of Rhetoric, How to Write and Speak Clearly and Persuasively (Angelico Press).

1. In the Introduction to Topping's book, he quotes G.K. Chesterton, who said that "while the aim of the sculptor is to convince us that he is a sculptor, the aim of the orator is to convince us that he is not an orator". What does this mean? Do you agree?
2. In Chapter 1, Topping states that when you try to influence a listener, clarity is your first obligation. Why is this? Why does he include a selection from Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*? In particular, what does he mean when he says that "even nonsense requires good sense"?
3. If the rules of grammar are, in a sense, arbitrary conventions, then why (according to Topping), is it critical to master grammar?
4. Topping recommends that you observe three precepts or principles of style: omit needless words, use the active voice, and use parallel structure. What examples does he provide of each? What do these have in common? Do you agree with them?
5. According to Topping, "grammar governs conventions for clear speech among men; logic is the language of God." What does this mean?
6. The three acts of the mind are (i) understanding, (ii) judging, and (iii) reasoning. See the table below.

An act of the mind	works on an object	and has an outcome.
understanding	terms	known or unknown
judging	propositions	true or false
reasoning	sylogisms	valid or invalid

7. *Understanding* refer to the mind's grasp of an *essence* or a *form*. What is meant by a *form*? In particular, how is an object's *form* distinct from its *matter*? What does this have to do with the first act of the mind?
8. Why is it important that definitions of terms are neither too broad nor too narrow? Why does Topping claim that "man is a rational animal" is a good definition of man?
9. *Judgement* refers to the evaluation of the truth or falsity of a *proposition*. What are the two parts of a proposition?

10. *Reasoning* deduces or infers the *connection* between terms and objects. It relies on *sylogism*. What is a syllogism? Provide an example of a syllogism. How is creating a syllogism like building a house?
11. Why is it so important when arguing to use premises that your listener will find compelling?
12. What is the difference between *truth* and *validity*? In particular, can an argument be valid but not true? If so, provide an example.
13. There are six fallacies that Topping says you should not fall into (see table below). Describe each of these and give an example.

fallacies of	such as	or
understanding	amphiboly	equivocation
judging	false cause	post hoc ergo propter hoc
reasoning	ad hominem	ad populum