



# Farnsworth's Classical English Rhetoric

By Ward Farnsworth

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## Farnsworth's Classical English Rhetoric By Ward Farnsworth

Masters of language can turn unassuming words into phrases that are convincing, effective, and memorably beautiful. Lincoln and Churchill had this power: having heard their words once, one can scarcely imagine the world without them. What are the secrets of this alchemy? The answer lies in rhetoric, among the most ancient of academic disciplines. This book contains a lively set of lessons on the subject, a tutorial on eloquence conducted by virtuoso faculty: not just Lincoln and Churchill, but Dickens and Melville, Edmund Burke and Thomas Paine. The result is an indispensable book for the writer and the speaker, a highly useful reference tool, and a rewarding source of instruction for all lovers and users of the English language.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

The most immediate pleasure of this book is that it heightens one's appreciation of the craft of great writers and speakers. Mr. Farnsworth includes numerous examples from Shakespeare and Dickens, Thoreau and Emerson, Winston Churchill and Abraham Lincoln. He also seems keen to rehabilitate writers and speakers whose rhetorical artistry is undervalued; besides his liking for Chesterton, he shows deep admiration for the Irish statesman Henry Grattan (1746-1820), whose studied repetition of a word (No lawyer can say so; because no lawyer could say so without forfeiting his character as a lawyer) is an instance, we are told, of *conduplicatio*. But more than anything Mr. Farnsworth wants to restore the reputation of rhetorical artistry *per se*, and the result is a handsome work of reference. --Henry Hitchings, Wall Street Journal

So, dear reader, I say it even if I say it myself -- get this book! No, really, get this book! Read clever Farnsworth, and read him again, and you may become more clever yourself. --Carlin Romano, The Chronicle of Higher Education

Many things, from dictators to advertising, have made modern people suspicious of and cynical about language mobilized to move us. Fortunately, Ward Farnsworth's delightful swim in a sea of well-chosen words should help to rehabilitate the reputation of rhetoric. --George F. Will, syndicated columnist

#### From the Back Cover

Advance Praise for Farnsworth's Classical English Rhetoric:

Not only educational but delightful.

- David Mamet

I must refrain from shouting what a brilliant work this is (*præteritio*). Farnsworth has written the book as he ought to have written it - and as only he could have written it (*symploce*). Buy it and read it - buy it and read it (*epimone*).

- Bryan A. Garner, author of *The Elements of Legal Style*

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- George F. Will, syndicated columnist

Every writer should have this book.

- Erin McKean, editor of *Verbatim: The Language Quarterly*

Ward Farnsworth's invaluable review of classical English rhetoric is not only a vital tool for aiding clear expression, but a timely reminder that, despite the confusion of the present technological age, human nature, and our ability to communicate in clear and often beautiful ways, are unchanging.

- Victor Davis Hanson, co-author of *Who Killed Homer?: The Demise of Classical Education & the Recovery of Greek Wisdom*

#### About the Author

Ward Farnsworth-lawyer, dean, teacher, and polymath-has produced another indispensable book for the writer. *Classical English Metaphor* will be a constant source of learning and enjoyment for anyone who appreciates the art of observation and the pleasure of well-chosen words.

## Users Review

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