

## COMPOSITION.

(From Ohio Ed. Monthly.)

1. See that your pupils have thoughts to express before they attempt to express them. The first essential is that the child has something to say on the subject selected before he attempts to write.

2. Have your pupils express their thoughts in correct language, and always in such words as they understand.

3. Do not insist that their language shall consist of monosyllables. Monosyllabic language may be strong, but language needs to be beautiful as well as strong. A judicious intermingling of words of various lengths is the most harmonious arrangement as well as the most expressive.

4. Encourage pupils to read, and then to reproduce what they have read, either in newspapers or in the works of standard authors.

5. Encourage them to refer to the dictionary whenever in doubt as to the correct meaning or proper application of the word.

6. Encourage them to read the best and most classical authors, to discover, if possible, the essentials which make their styles pleasing. Reading literature of a captivating style will tend to give one power to form a pleasing style of one's own.

7. Ease of expression may be acquired by constant practice, but also by copying and memorizing the productions of the elegant in one's own language. We naturally imitate the style of those writings with which we are most familiar and their methods of expression to some extent model ours.

8. Give occasional exercise in transposing poetry to prose. This will require the learner to remodel many of the sentences and express them in a different form.

9. Exercises in paraphrasing are excellent. Let the pupil take some popular proverb and write an explanation of it.

10. See that the pupils do not attempt to select subjects beyond their comprehension. Encourage them to be original by having them write only on such themes, as they understand, in having them express themselves naturally, and by giving them proper praise for even their humblest efforts.

11. Encourage your pupils to correct and re-write what they have written, and prune, until they express themselves in the best possible manner.

12. Lead your pupils to see that composition is only telling or writing what they think on any subject.—A. N. Raub.