

PAPER ABSTRACT: Using PowerPoint for Elementary Latin Instruction

This presentation is primarily intended to demonstrate the effective use of PowerPoint as a teaching methodology in the classroom for virtually all aspects of Latin instruction – whether at the high school level or in the beginning Latin courses at the college level.

It is especially effective in illustrating the noun, adjective and verb paradigms as they transmute through case, gender and number and person, number and tense. Noun endings can easily be transformed before your very eye, so to speak, and little or no time is lost by doing “board work.”

This methodology which I have used for the past several years has proven – at least to me – to be an efficient and effective way to teach the inflections. It maintains student interest and, perhaps, best of all – I never have to turn my back on my students! I am watching them as they are watching the PowerPoint screens.

PowerPoint can also effectively be used in illustrating points of grammar as well as in translation work. Sentences from the text can be brought to life by illustrating them with images incorporated in a PowerPoint screen. Short passages for translating can be typed into the PowerPoint format and the students can interact with the PowerPoint to create a basic translation as they go.

In my own experience, I have found PowerPoint a particularly helpful methodology with classes which are “over-enrolled.” It is an effective methodology for the class that is so large as to require a small lecture hall.

And, finally, for those of us who have “Blackboard” as a resource, the PowerPoint presentations provide an accurate record of each class presentation and serve the students with a means of “total review” from class to class.

I have on file what amounts to about 200 hours of PowerPoint presentations which encompass most of “Elementary Latin” (whether at the high school or college levels); this “paper” will be comprised almost entirely of sample presentations of how various aspects of elementary Latin can be developed into meaningful PowerPoint units of instruction.