Notes on PHAEDRUS

I. Speech of Lysias
   A. "You should yield to the non-lover because
      1. Lovers repent of and cease their ministrations to the beloved, whereas non-lovers don't.
      2. If you admire the passion of the lover, consider:
         a. That same passion will lead him astray when he has found another love,
         b. He is not in his right mind,
         c. He will repent when he recovers,
         d. There are more non-lovers than lovers to choose from,
         e. They are more distreet.
      3. If you fear the fickleness of the friend, then remember the jealousy of the lover.
      4. The lover will harm you, but I will help you.
      5. Love is not the only basis of friendship--family and advantage are more reliable.

II. First speech of Socrates--in favor of non-lover.
   A. What is the lover? the slave of erotic passion.
   B. He is unable to follow his judgement of the better and worse.
   C. He will ruin your soul, body, and estate.
   D. He will not even be pleasant.
   E. The non-lover is opposite in these respects.

III. Interlude--divine sign tells Socrates he has committed impiety against the god Eros.

IV. Second speech of Socrates--in favor of the lover.
   A. Species of divine madness--prophecy, purification, poetry, love.
   B. The Soul
      1. Self-moving and thus without beginning or end.
      2. Figure of soul: chariot and team of horses.
      3. The souls of gods and the other races:
         a. The charioteers and horses of the souls of the gods are all of noble breed.
         b. The souls of the other races consist of a chariot and team, with one horse of noble and one of ignoble descent.
      4. Soul has care of inanimate being
         a. Winged soul--of the whole cosmos
         b. Wingless soul--of particular animals.
      5. Animation of bodies:
a. Body has no motive power of its own.
b. The gods have no bodies.

6. The processions of the gods
   a. Divine souls effortlessly rise above the vault of heaven and feed on knowledge of the forms.
   b. Other souls with difficulty feed variously on knowledge of the forms, but also on opinion.
   c. The Law of Destiny for souls that have lost their wings.
      (1) Only those that in some way have seen the forms can be the souls of human beings.
      (2) To regain its wings, a soul must embrace philosophy.

7. The power of beauty.
   a. Of all the forms, beauty is the most vividly memorable in the things that participate in it.
   b. Therefore love can lead to philosophy.
   c. Depending on the condition of the loving soul and its two horses, the lover can either
      (1) fall into the morass of sexuality,
      (2) rise to the threshold of philosophy,
      (3) attain to philosophy and thus begin to regain its wings.

C. Digression--the politicians despise speechwriters
   1. No--they only claim to. They are speechwriters themselves, leaving to themselves monuments of speech.

D. What makes a good speech?
   1. Knowledge of the subject
      a. objection--some would say the good speaker must know only people's opinions
         (1) reply--on that basis rhetoric will reap a bad harvest (by making listeners worse)
      b. objection--rhetoric assumes knowledge--what it provides are techniques
         (1) reply--these techniques don't make up an art, but just a knack
   2. Rhetoric as the enchantment of the soul
      a. to deceive, you must make A appear to be both B and not-B
      b. therefore, you must know the similarities and differences of things
      c. especially things about which people dispute
      d. Examination of Lysias' speech:
         (1) He doesn't attempt to state what love is
         (2) a discourse should be like an animal,
with beginning, middle, and end, but
Lysias' is not
3. Collection and Division in sorting out the
   similarities and differences of things
   a. Socrates: I'm fond of these techniques
   b. Pheadrus: the rhetoricians don't use them
4. But what about the rhetorician's own techniques?
   They are just ornamentation.
5. Rhetoric is the medicine of the soul--the
   rhetorician must know the elements and types of
   soul and design appropriate discourses for each
   type
6. Is there a short-cut? No. the best way to
   probabilities is through truth.
E. Writing.
1. Thoth invented writing--Thamus said it would ruin
   memory.
2. The written word is not intelligible or certain--it
   can't answer back.
3. The legitimate offspring of speech: learning in the
   soul of the learner.