Lamy vs Erasmus

My classmates and I are sitting in our last history class waiting for our professor to arrive. Before the class starts, my classmates and I decided to try and persuade our professor to cancel the final that will be on the last day of finals week. The purpose is to get our history final canceled which I will be aiming to persuade our professor and my classmates to be on my side and agree that I am right. I will be using different types of methods to persuade my audience and get my last final cancelled. Lamy’s method of developing a case is better than Erasmus’ because of his use of style, passion, and figures.

In class, I brought up the final and how I hated that the final was on the very last day of finals week. I was complaining and whining, in hopes of getting my classmates on the same page as me. If I think the professor should cancel the final, then everyone else must think the same thing. Lamy says on page 180, “we may speak with our eyes, and our fingers, and make use of the motions of those parts to express the idea’s which are present to our minds, and the affections of our wills...” emphasizing gestures of my hands and eyes helped win my classmates over to agreeing with me. When my teacher finally got to class, I was very eager in telling him our reasons as to why the final should be cancelled. I wanted to take responsibility in what I believed in and I went ahead with it with the help of my classmates being on my side as well. For Erasmus, it would have been a longer process because he likes fullness and time to think about the right decision, he says, “elegance consists partly in words used by suitable authors; partly in using the right word; and partly in using it in the right expression” (pg. 18). While persuading our professor, it is important to use active verbs and lively words to get the audience’s attention for example, Lamy says, “the use of tropes is absolutely necessary, because many times ordinary words are deficient” (pg. 221). Erasmus is different and likes things to be concise and clear.
which he likes simplicity, and Erasmus says, “Change of form aids copia whenever we use
simple speech for compound or vice versa, and this may be done either with or without trope”
(pg. 27). While trying to get my point across, many of my classmates and myself were
emphasizing and repeating our main points, to Erasmus he would not like because he says, “for it
is most difficult type of varying, the nature of the speech remaining the same, to habitually
express the same meaning repeatedly…” (pg. 24) Not only using a specific art of speaking and
style, it is important to speak with passion.

What I learned from Lamy is expressing my passion about something I believe in can
persuade anybody. In my speech to why we should have our final cancelled, I emphasized words,
phrases, and spoke with different tones of voice. Lamy says, “Sound can excite passions, and we
may say, that every passion answers to some sound or other…” (pg. 292) We wanted our
professor to see our passion about the final being in the way with our busy schedule and
traveling home plans. Our professor could see the passion in each of our eyes, Lamy says, “we
can see a man’s face what passes in his hear; the fir fire in his eyes, the wrinkles in his brow, the
paleness in his looks, are evidences of more than ordinary commotion” (pg. 223). Erasmus
would not agree that if someone is using a lot of different words then it can cause the audience to
be bored, in the *Alan of Isles*, they say, “faithful in word insofar as he does not corrupt the truth
with lies; faithful in word because he does not sell his preaching for earthly recompense; faithful
in word is that in his words will not contradict his actions” (pg. 234). Emphasizing certain words
and phrases is not a style of being wordiness Lamy would think. Using sound and vivid images
helps your audience see your vision. Our professor could not only hear but also see in his mind
that having a final on the last day of finals week is not fair. Not only does Erasmus want the
reasoning to adapt to the audience but also adapting to as human beings. A speech can be varied
in many different ways, and one way is using figures, which both Erasmus and Lamy uses and talks about.

Erasmus define figures as, “a speech is varied when it is presented in such a way as to alter its emotional tone and, as it were, exhibited in different attire, which may be called change of figure...” (pg. 37) Our main points to reason for cancelling our final was that students from out of town could go home sooner, we worked hard all semester, the test is not worth many points, and our finals get finished early in the week. For those reasons, my classmates and I did our best to clearly explain those reasons which Lamy says, “The form, the clearness, the good order of our idea’s, depends upon the clearness and distinction of the impressions which the objects make upon our brain...” (pg. 304) At the end of the reason and argument, it is only up to the professor to decide if he is going to side with me. Lamy, “a good judgment chooses and picks, it stops not at everything presented by the imagination, but discerns and discriminates betwixt what is fit to be said, and what is fit to be pass’d...” (pg. 309) There is a certain formula but it is important to bring yourself as a speaker and in Salutations, they said, “It is especially necessary for this adaptation to circumstances to be made smooth and harmonious and resplendent in the judicious use of words” (pg. 25). Erasmus would practice, use his own wisdom, creativity, and bring in his own experience. He makes good points about practice because Lamy does not need much practice but repetition and emphasis on his persuading points. I would have to agree with Erasmus on this because if I would have practiced before then, my argument would have been better because it would have been thought out and treated carefully before presenting my argument.

I chose Lamy’s method of developing a case because it is more realistic and efficient when persuading a group of people or just one single person. I made sure to take responsibility of
owning up to that I didn’t want to take the final in this history class. Then I went ahead and took action to get my classmates on my side. I showed passion to make a difference even if that included in manipulating my classmates and professor to agree with me and be on my side. Repeating certain words and phrases puts an impression on the audiences’ brain, creating vivid images puts a clear picture in their mind, and emphasizing gestures of my hands and eyes when persuading our professor to cancel the final. Passion is shown when you care about something, and showing passion can help persuade the audience to see your side. Sounds excite passion which manipulates the audience to agree with you which is exactly what my classmates and I did to persuade our professor. He had a clear picture of what we were going through and felt exactly how we felt to get our final cancelled. With using style and passion, figures contributed by altering the speech but not changing our thoughts.
Erasmus vs. Lamy paper

Write a 4-page paper (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point, 1-inch margins, name and date only in single-spaced header). Hand in a printed copy in class on Thursday, December 11. Start and finish early so you can deal with problems like a broken printer and still hand it in on time.

Whose method of working up, developing, or amplifying a case do you prefer—Erasmus’ or Lamy’s? Answer the question by discussing some specific situation in which somebody tries to persuade others. You can choose whatever specific situation you want. Examples: In a nationally-televised speech, Obama tries to persuade Americans to support immigration legislation; During an employee meeting, you try to persuade your boss to give you and your colleagues a holiday bonus; During a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences graduation ceremony, Sheryl Sandberg tries to persuade KU December graduates to “lean in.”

Your thesis should be something like: Lamy’s method of developing a case is better than Erasmus’ because a, b, and c.

To answer the question and make a good argument, (1) begin by briefly specifying the situation you will discuss. Cover who is the speaker, purpose, audience, and occasion. You can do this in one sentence (see examples above). (2) Organize your discussion around the reasons why you think Lamy’s method is better than Erasmus’ or vice versa. (3) Discuss the views of both Lamy and Erasmus. (4) Illustrate all points with direct quotations (not paraphrases) from Lamy and Erasmus. Cite page numbers. Aim for including at least 12-15 quotations that are clearly, explicitly, and directly relevant to the point you are illustrating. Include about an equal number of quotations from both authors.

Excellent (A) papers will typically (1) select and explain well at least three significant points that are clearly, explicitly, and directly relevant to their methods of developing a case, (2) indicate a strong understanding of Lamy’s and Erasmus’ methods of developing a case, (3) use relevant quotations from all relevant chapters, (4) cite accurately, and (5) be well-organized and free from mechanical errors.

Good (B) papers will typically (1) select and explain at least three significant points relevant to their methods of developing a case, (2) indicate a good understanding of Lamy and Erasmus, (3) use relevant quotations from most relevant chapters, (4) cite accurately, and (5) be well-organized and almost completely error-free.

Average (C) papers will typically (1) select and explain three significant points but fall a bit short in their significance, explanations, and/or relevance, (2) misunderstand a point about Lamy and/or Erasmus, (3) use limited relevant quotations, (4) cite accurately, and (5) have some problems with organization and errors.

Below average (D) papers will typically (1) select and explain three points but fall short in their significance, explanations, and/or relevance, (2) have some problems with understanding Lamy and Erasmus, (3) use limited relevant quotations, (4) have some problems with citations, and (5) have poor organization and many errors.

Poor (F) papers will typically (1) cover insignificant and/or irrelevant points, and/or inadequately explain them, (2) have serious problems with understanding Lamy and Erasmus, (3) use few or no relevant quotations, (4) cite inaccurately, and (5) have poor organization and many errors.

Consistently use directly relevant quotations.

D+