

# **Joshua Reads The Opening of Lucretius Book One - 1743 Edition**

**Post by “Cassius” of November 6, 2019 at 8:24 AM**

Joshua has done some great reading for this video!

Please thank Joshua for the time he invested in this, and let's also discuss something that might help as we make more of these in the future:

In this reading from the opening of Lucretius Book 1, Joshua uses three distinct voices. I'm calling them "normal," "audiobook," and "dramatic/Shakespearean."

We frequently find that some people like the dramatic voice for short periods, but find it tiring over time. Each version has advantages in terms of clarity and emphasis. As we work to produce more and longer videos, please let us know in which voice you think you would most enjoy listening to longer selections from Lucretius.

So please "vote" and also "comment" to let us know your thoughts:

[https://youtu.be/Fdhcj\\_K\\_2Gc](https://youtu.be/Fdhcj_K_2Gc)

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**Post by “Kyle” of November 6, 2019 at 11:03 AM**

Hmm, the text scrolling can be wonky because it applies a consistent scroll speed to a voice with variable speed. It averages out as shown at the end, but the text can get so behind that you can't see the words being spoken. The only way to solve this would be to give the user the option to set keyframes (like telling the text-scrolling engine what part of the text is being read at the middle of the audio, then the engine could change the times before and after the keyframe to help stabilize the text scrolling).

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**Post by “Cassius” of November 6, 2019 at 11:14 AM**

Yes I noticed that Kyle. I am also wondering if I can just break down the audio into separate files, and process it separately by "chunks" and give the video a chance to catch up that way.

That's one advantage of the computer-read voice -- it reads at constant speed.

Another thing I want to figure out is how to start the opening location on the first screen lower on the page at the beginning , as I am thinking that might help as well.

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### **Post by “Kyle” of November 6, 2019 at 11:27 AM**

> Another thing I want to figure out is how to start the opening location on the first screen lower on the page at the beginning , as I am thinking that might help as well.

Yes, I'm certain this can be done by modifying the script. I'll see if I can solve it later today.

> I am also wondering if I can just break down the audio into separate files, and process it separately by "chunks" and give the video a chance to catch up that way.

You could break the audio and text file into corresponding chunks and run the python script for each chunk, I was thinking about making the script do this for you if you specify the chunks so you don't have to run the python script for each chunk.

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### **Post by “Godfrey” of November 6, 2019 at 1:53 PM**

Great work Joshua! You could get a side gig reading audio books. 🤔

All three voices sound great. The dramatic/Shakespearean voice is harder for me to follow.

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### **Post by “Cassius” of November 6, 2019 at 2:38 PM**

Also, if anyone has any "audacity" / filtering or recording tips, please chime in. It is possible that if I had run this through a "compression" filter that there might not be quite so much "echo" effect -- actually I am not sure I know how to describe it -- I bet others have a word for it. Joshua in general the recording quality is excellent. What type of microphone were you using. Were you using a headset?

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### **Post by "Charles" of November 6, 2019 at 2:41 PM**

I tried recording sections from Book 1, but despite my good mic, Audacity picks up on a ton of background noise.

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### **Post by "Cassius" of November 6, 2019 at 2:51 PM**

Charles do you know how to use the filtering / noise reduction options? I am only beginning to learn them. Your voice comes over well during the Skype sessions.

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### **Post by "Cassius" of November 6, 2019 at 2:55 PM**

[Quote from Kyle](#)

> was thinking about making the script do this for you if you specify the chunks so you don't have to run the python script for each chunk.

that would be great but how would it know how to match them? Name the text and mp3 chunks similarly?

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### **Post by "Joshua" of November 6, 2019 at 3:00 PM**

Quote

Audacity picks up on a ton of background noise.

Yep.

I used a desktop Yeti microphone, a pop filter, Bose over-ear headphones, and Audacity on a no-frills laptop. Recorded on the kitchen table in the narrow intervals when the furnace blower wasn't running.

I ran the audio through several filters; from memory, I think it was equalize, amplify, compress, amplify. I tried noise reduction as well—I think I did that at the end.

Today I have a cold, so unfortunately it may be some time before you see anything else from me! I think I still have the unfiltered, untampered audio file if you'd like to play around with that, Cassius. I've certainly gained a new appreciation for content creators!

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### **Post by “Cassius” of November 6, 2019 at 4:56 PM**

Wow no wonder it sounded so good if you did all that! I am still only learning myself.

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### **Post by “Joshua” of November 6, 2019 at 5:05 PM**

Quote

Wow no wonder it sounded so good if you did all that! I am still only learning myself

Ha! Yeah I saw it on a youtube video. I don't really understand any of it, but it does sound better afterwards.

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### **Post by “Cassius” of November 11, 2019 at 8:54 AM**

Here is a link to the same poll and responses on FB -  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Epicure...83562795025999/>