

Appendix F: Other Writing Textbooks of Note

HANDBOOKS

Far and away, the most frequently used college writing textbook is the *handbook*. The traditional definition is that handbooks are intended primarily to help students write correctly. Though many of the larger handbooks offer detailed writing advice, handbooks are generally used for help in conventions of grammar, style, usage, punctuation, and mechanics as well as advice on research and documenting papers. All provide some help with general reading skills, such as previewing or observing a text; active reading skills, such as annotating, underlining, and note-taking; and connect those activities to general advice on rhetorical strategies, such as analyzing, reflecting, informing, and arguing. Handbooks do not provide as much help with close reading of specific texts as other textbooks do. Instructors may use handbooks in class or assign reading from them, though most are used as reference books intended for students to consult on their own.

“Comprehensive” handbooks form the foundation of each publisher’s handbook franchises (associated with the author), offer the most detailed coverage of critical reading, and are the explicit in making the connection to writing. Most offer distinct chapters on critical reading as part of their coverage of analyzing and writing arguments. They introduce students to strategies for previewing, active reading, summarizing, and analyzing a text, numerous exercises, and offer abundant annotated examples from several genres, including text, photographs, and Web pages. Because of the placement of reading chapters in the context of chapters about analyzing and constructing arguments, these handbooks explicitly show the connection of critical thinking, reading, and writing. Examples are abundant, and the advice is well-grounded. The student, however, must rely on an instructor’s use of this advice to

ensure her understanding of critical reading strategies transfers to her writing assignments. Some offer discreet sections that include specific advice on critical reading skills with print and visual examples, usually accompanied by chapters or sections covering reading and writing arguments, or as a component of critical thinking. All have examples of critical reading strategies in action that are often annotated, and that often show synthesis and analysis. Though most include annotated student essays depicting a close reading, none includes full readings as part of scaffolded writing assignments.

Top-selling, full-sized handbooks include *Writing: A Manual for the Digital Age, Second Edition* by David Blakesley and Jeffrey L. Hoo-geveen; *The Penguin Handbook, Fourth Edition*, by Lester Faigley; *The Little, Brown Handbook, Twelfth Edition*, by H. Ramsey Fowler and Jane E. Aaron; *The Hodges Harbrace Handbook, Eighteenth Edition*, by Cheryl Glenn and Loretta Gray; *The Bedford Handbook, Eighth Edition*, by Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers; *Writing Matters*, by Rebecca Moore Howard; *The St. Martin's Handbook, Seventh Edition*, by Andrea A. Lunsford; *The McGraw-Hill Handbook, Third Edition*, by Elaine Maimon, Janice Peritz, and Kathleen Yancey; *The Scott, Foresman Handbook for Writers, Ninth Edition*, by John J. Ruszkiewicz, Christy E. Friend, Daniel E. Seward, and Maxine Hairston; *The Simon & Schuster Handbook for Writers, Ninth Edition*, by Lynn Q. Troyka and Doug Hesse; and, *The DK Handbook, Second Edition*, by Anne Frances Wysocki and Dennis A. Lynch.

RHETORICS

Top-selling comprehensive rhetorics include *The St. Martin's Guide to Writing, Ninth Edition*, by Rise B. Axelrod and Charles R. Cooper; *The Curious Writer, Third Edition*, by Bruce Ballenger; *The Norton Field Guide to Writing with Readings and Handbook, Second Edition*, by Richard Bullock, Maureen Daly Goggin, and Francine Weinberg; *The Allyn & Bacon Guide to Writing, Sixth Edition*, by John D. Ramage, John C. Bean, and June Johnson; *The Prentice Hall Guide for College Writers, Ninth Edition*, by Stephen Reid; and *The McGraw-Hill Guide: Writing for College, Writing for Life, Second Edition*, by Duane Roen, Gregory R. Glau, and Barry M. Maid.

READERS

Argument Readers

As the fastest growing segment of the reader market, there are dozens of competitive argument texts and readers on the market, including *Envision: Writing and Researching Arguments*, Third Edition, by Christine Alfano and Alyssa O'Brien; *Current Issues and Enduring Questions: A Guide to Critical Thinking and Argument with Readings*, Ninth Edition, by Sylvan Barnet and Hugo Bedau; *Aims of Argument: A Text and Reader*, Seventh Edition, by Thomas Crusius and Carolyn Channel; *Good Reasons: Researching and Writing Effective Arguments*, Fifth Edition, by Lester Faigley and Jack Selzer; *Dialogues: An Argument Rhetoric and Reader*, Seventh Edition, by Gary J. Goshgarian and Kathleen Krueger; *Practical Argument: A Text and Anthology*, by Laurie G. Kirszner and Stephen R. Mandell; *Inventing Arguments*, Second Edition, by John Mauk; *Elements of Argument: A Text and Reader*, Tenth Edition, by Annette T. Rottenberg and Donna Haisty Winchell; and *Perspectives on Argument*, Seventh Edition, by Nancy V. Wood.

Inquiry-Based Readers

There are other readers that focus on inquiry, both for academic writing and writing for other purposes. Some of these are *The Curious Reader: Exploring Personal and Academic Inquiry*, Second Edition, by Bruce Ballenger and Michelle Payne; *Inquiry: Questioning, Reading, Writing*, Second Edition, by Lynn Z. Bloom and Edward M. White, with Shane Borrowman; and *Composing Inquiry: Methods and Readings for Investigation and Writing*, by Margaret J. Marshall.