WRITING AND SCHOOL REFORM: WRITING INSTRUCTION IN THE AGE OF COMMON CORE AND STANDARDIZED TESTING

PERSPECTIVES ON WRITING

Series Editors, Susan H. McLeod and Rich Rice

The Perspectives on Writing series addresses writing studies in a broad sense. Consistent with the wide ranging approaches characteristic of teaching and scholarship in writing across the curriculum, the series presents works that take divergent perspectives on working as a writer, teaching writing, administering writing programs, and studying writing in its various forms.

The WAC Clearinghouse, Colorado State University Open Press, and University Press of Colorado are collaborating so that these books will be widely available through free digital distribution and low-cost print editions. The publishers and the Series editors are committed to the principle that knowledge should freely circulate. We see the opportunities that new technologies have for further democratizing knowledge. And we see that to share the power of writing is to share the means for all to articulate their needs, interest, and learning into the great experiment of literacy.

Recent Books in the Series

- Lisa Emerson, The Forgotten Tribe: Scientists as Writers (2017)
- Jacob S. Blumner and Pamela B, Childers (Eds.), WAC Partnerships Between Secondary and Postsecondary Institutions (2015)
- Nathan Shepley, *Placing the History of College Writing: Stories from the Incomplete Archive* (2015)
- Asao B. Inoue, Antiracist Writing Assessment Ecologies: An Approach to Teaching and Assessing Writing for a Socially Just Future (2015)
- Theresa Lillis, Kathy Harrington, Mary R. Lea, and Sally Mitchell (Eds.), Working with Academic Literacies: Case Studies Towards Transformative Practice (2015)
- Beth L. Hewett and Kevin Eric DePew (Eds.), Foundational Practices of Online Writing Instruction (2015)
- Christy I. Wenger, Yoga Minds, Writing Bodies: Contemplative Writing Pedagogy (2015)
- Sarah Allen, Beyond Argument: Essaying as a Practice of (Ex)Change (2015)
- Steven J. Corbett, Beyond Dichotomy: Synergizing Writing Center and Class-room Pedagogies (2015)
- Tara Roeder and Roseanne Gatto (Eds.), Critical Expressivism: Theory and Practice in the Composition Classroom (2014)

WRITING AND SCHOOL REFORM: WRITING INSTRUCTION IN THE AGE OF COMMON CORE AND STANDARDIZED TESTING

Joanne Addison and Sharon James McGee

The WAC Clearinghouse wac.colostate.edu Fort Collins, Colorado

University Press of Colorado www.upcolorado.com Boulder, Colorado The WAC Clearinghouse, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-1040

University Press of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado 80303

© 2017 by Joanne Addison and Sharon James McGee

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International.

Printed in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Addison, Joanne, author. | McGee, Sharon James, author.

Title: Writing and school reform: writing instruction in the age of Common Core and standardized testing / Joanne Addison and Sharon James McGee.

Other titles: Perspectives on writing (Fort Collins, Colo.)

Description: Fort Collins, Colo.: WAC Clearinghouse; Boulder, Colorado: University Press of Colorado, [2016] | Series: Perspectives on writing | Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016045020 | ISBN 9781607326458 (pbk.) | ISBN 9781607326465 (ebook) Subjects: LCSH: English language—Writing—Study and teaching (Higher)—United States—Evaluation. | Educational accountability—United States—History. | Educational tests and measurements—United States—History. | Common Core State Standards (Education)

Classification: LCC PE1405.U6 A34 2016 | DDC 808/.042071073—dc23

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2016045020

Copyeditor: Julia Smth Designer: Mike Palmquist

Series Editors: Susan H. McLeod and Rich Rice

This book is printed on acid-free paper.

This book includes chapters based in part on the following publications:

Addison, Joanne, and Sharon James McGee. "Writing in high school/writing in college: Research trends and future directions." *College Composition and Communication* 62.1 (2010): 147–179. Copyright © 2010 by the National Council of Teachers of English. Used with permission.

Addison, Joanne, and Sharon James McGee. "To the Core: College Composition Classrooms in The Age of Accountability, Standardized Testing, and Common Core State Standards." *Rhetoric Review* 34.2 (2015): 200–218. Copyright © 2015 Joanne Addison and Sharon James McGee.

The WAC Clearinghouse supports teachers of writing across the disciplines. Hosted by Colorado State University, and supported by the Colorado State University Open Press, it brings together scholarly journals and book series as well as resources for teachers who use writing in their courses. This book is available in digital formats for free download at wac.colostate.edu.

Founded in 1965, the University Press of Colorado is a nonprofit cooperative publishing enterprise supported, in part, by Adams State University, Colorado State University, Fort Lewis College, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Regis University, University of Colorado, University of Northern Colorado, Utah State University, and Western State Colorado University. For more information, visit www.upcolorado.com.

CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Note	.19
Chapter 1. A Brief History of Accountability and Standardized Testing	
Standardized Testing Before Sputnik	
Sputnik: A Moment of Crisis	
Standardized Testing and Higher Education	
Directing Future Attention	
Notes	47
Chapter 2. Writing in High School, Writing in College	.49
Writing in High School, Writing in College	
Consortium for the Study of Writing in College	
National Commission on Writing	
National Curriculum Survey	
Institutionally Based Research	
Deep Learning and Writing Instruction	
Beyond Prewriting and Clear Expectations	
Genres Beyond the University	
Writing Attributes Beyond the University	
Notes	
Appendix A: Student Survey of Writing in College	69
Chapter 3. What's an Administrator or Teacher to Do?	75
Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC)	
Effective and Responsive Instruction	
Professional Development and Assessment	
One Last Point—Let's Not Forget English Language Learners	
One Last Point—Let's Poor Porget English Language Learners	•/1
Chapter 4. Thinking Vertically	. 93
Common Core State Standards Initiative	93
Language and Literacy Common Core State Standards	98
Knowledge Transfer	101
Transfer and Genres	103
Behaviors and Meta-Awareness	105
Teaching Vertically	106

Contents

Chapter 5. Teaching Writing Matters	
Empowering Sponsors	113
Empowering and Engaged Professional Development	118
Note	123
Works Cited	125