

How to Write for the World of Work Seventh Edition

职场英语写作

(第7版)

Donald H. Cunningham Elizabeth O. Smith Thomas E. Pearsall





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Seventh Edition

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总序

北京大学出版社继《英语写作原版引印系列丛书》之后,2010年,又专题引进商务英语写作原版系列教材。这套教材体系完整,应用性强,商务内容丰富,十分贴近英语教学改革的需要和广大学生提升未来就业能力的需求,填补了我国商务英语写作领域内没有高质量商务英语写作教材的空白,并得到15所商务英语专业院校教学协作组和中国英语写作教学专业委员会相关专家的联合推荐。

随着我国对外开放的不断深入,高水平的商务英语写作人才一将难求,能用地道规范的英文起草法律合同、撰写咨询报告的专业写作人才更是凤毛麟角,部分国际咨询机构提供的一份英文公司咨询报告价格高达百万美元,如此激烈的竞争值得我们认真反思现有的写作教学。即将出台的高等学校商务英语专业本科教学要求(试行)明确指出,商务英语写作是学生的核心能力,商务英语专业应加大毕业设计的比重,鼓励学生采用商务报告(如市场调研报告、商业计划书、营销方案等)多种形式。而全面提升商务英语写作能力,按照过去传统的写作教学模式,已无法适应,必须要有新的改革思路,要改变"费时低效"的困境,就必须做到以下几个转变:(1)从重写作技能转向技能与内容并重;(2)从传统写作教学转向机辅写作教学模式;(3)从开设单一写作课转向开设写作课程群;(4)从大班课堂写作教学转向个性化写作教学中心。通过对美国普林斯顿大学、英国华威大学等世界名校的考察,我们建议,可分阶段分层次为不同水平的学生开设商务英语写作课程群(Writing Portfolio),具体可包括:基础英语写作、国际贸易写作、国际管销写作、金融英语写作、法律英语写作、学术英语写作、财经新闻写作、商务函电写作、商务报告写作、职业应用文写作等,全面提升学生的写作能力。

本套系列教材在国外畅销经久不衰,多次再版或重印,此次由北京大学出版社首批引进出版 10 本:《商务沟通:以读者为中心的方法》(上、下册)、《商务沟通与写作》(上、下册)、《最新商务报告写作》(上、下册)、《职场英语写作》(上、下册)、《成功商务英语写作》(上、下册),由对外经济贸易大学商务英语写作教学团队的教师魏明博士、冯海颖博士、杨颖莉博士、李玉霞博士、尹珏林博士分别撰写导读。

本套丛书既是职场英语写作的优质教材,又是商务写作的经典教材,教材深入浅出,语言简明,可帮助学生理解、记忆和应对多种国际商务场合下的写作需求。通过本丛书的学习和训练,学生可提高写作水平,为踏入职场做好准备。本套丛书可用作全国大专院校的商务英语学生和教师的写作课教材和参考书,还可供经管类学生学习商务英语写作之用,同时也可供爱好商务英语写作的广大社会读者和各类公司企业人员提高英语写作使用。

中国英语写作教学专业委员会主任 对外经济贸易大学英语学院院长 教授、博士生导师

2.20/10 年国庆节于北京

导读

一、本书的特色

1. 作者简介

Donald H. Cunningham 博士是美国奥本大学英语系退休教授,长年从事商务和科技英语写作的教学与研究,著有多部写作教材。主要学术职务有:技术写作教师协会会长,《技术写作季刊》(Technical Communication Quarterly)包刊编辑,高校写作与交流研讨会常任理事。

Thomas E. Pearsall 博士是美国明尼苏达大学修辞学系退休教授,前系主任,著有多部写作教材。曾任技术写作教师协会会长,主持建立了技术交流专业方向,被收入《美国名人录》和《世界名人录》。

Elizabeth O. Smith 博士是奥本大学英语系副教授,副系主任,教育技术主管。作者、编辑,为企业提供基于计算机的写作训练。技术写作教师协会骨干会员,技术交流学会会员。

2. 本书特色

《职场英语写作》畅销多年,自1978年首次出版后已再版6次。本书内容丰富,涵盖了E-mail、备忘录、提案、口头报告、函件、简历、说明、机制描述、研究论文写作等多种商务、科技、学术文体的写作规范和方法,能帮助学习者和使用者培养和掌握职业发展中非常关键的书面表达和交流技巧,提高写作能力。第7版中增加了利用当下职场最流行的沟通技术(互联网、计算机图形、演示软件和视频技术等)进行写作的内容。同样重要的是,新版还强调了在全球市场中如何面向不同文化和群体的读者进行写作。作者熟知当代大学生和职业人士的需求,为本书收录了大量机构和企业文档,讲解生动流畅,深入浅出,引人入胜。本书编排照顾到了教师、学习者和使用者的不同需求。每章最后的思考题和实践题帮助学习者及时将该章知识学以致用,多种形式的活动设计可满足教师组织教学和布置作业的需要。另外,本书还在各章节以备忘清单的形式把写作前和修改时需注意的事项——列出,方便职业人士对照检查和参考。

3. 使用对象与方法

本书既可作为研究生和高年级本科生的英语写作课程教材,也可作为职业人士解决职场写作中实际问题的工作手册,还可作为同等水平的英语学习者的写作自学材料。教师可根据写作课程的级别和性质选择教材中的不同章节。综合性写作课程可以把第一单元作为核心,介绍写作的一般性原则、技巧和惯例。专门用途写作课程可将第一单元与二至四单元中与商务、科技和学术写作相关的部分结合起来。本科生课程可侧重写作主要环节和一般性原则的章节,研究生课程可侧重具体写作方法和文体的章节,而职业人士则可以查阅每章的核对清单。

二、本书内容

本书共四个单元 19章。

第一单元 基本原则(第一至七章)

该单元讲述了职场写作的主要环节和一般性原则。

第一章 职场交流过程

该章开宗明义,介绍了职场写作的总体特点,阐述了贯穿全书的指导思想:职场写作必须针对具体的读者,呈现具体的信息,实现具体的交际目标。总述了职场写作的基本环节,包括读者定位、确定交际目标、搜集整理信息、布局排版、图表设计、写作与修改、合作式写作,以及与写作相关的伦理道德问题。

- 第二章 计算机与职场信息交流

目前大多数职场写作都以电脑为媒介,并以电子形式呈现、传递和保存,因而职场写作方式应该随着电脑和网络技术的发展进行及时调整。该章主要讲解了在职场写作的各个环节中如何更好地利用电脑技术,强调写作者应考虑人们阅读电子文本的特殊习惯,充分利用电子文本易于传递和分享的特性搜集信息,并进行合作式写作,但需要格外注意信息来源的可靠性并注明信息来源。另外,作者还探讨了在以下三种电子环境中写作的特别注意事项:(1)电子邮件,(2)邮件列表(mailing list)、群件(groupware)、网络聊天室,(3)网站和网页。

第三章 说服性交流和科学争论性交流

介绍了职场写作的一般性说服技巧与科学论证的方法。说服的策略包括建立信任,动之以情,和以事实为依据进行分析。科学论证的主要方法有论证法、演绎法、对比法和因果分析法。

第四章 创作国际化文件和会议发言: 文体与语气

阐述了全球化背景下职场写作应当遵循的一个重要原则:在书写货币、日期、时间、地名、计量单位等常用信息时应考虑不同地域和文化读者的差异,让写作简洁清晰,语气公允得体,避免冒犯不同性别、种族或群体的读者。

第五章 文件设计和制作

第五、六、七章自成一体,探讨了如何通过排版布局和外观设计让写作主题更鲜明、一目了然,更 好地实现作者的交际目标,满足特定读者的需求。第五章侧重介绍怎样以最佳方式组织和呈现文本,通 过恰当的文字排版和颜色搭配让文本便于阅读,通过小标题和项目符号等突出重点、明晰结构。总之, 应该让文章的排版布局方便读者使用,适应读者所处的环境。

第六章 视图和文件设计(1)

概括了有可能影响读者对图表和插图理解的各种因素,包括是否布局合理,标注清晰,与文本相互呼应,便于理解,不易误导等等。

第七章 视图和文件设计(2)

分类讲解各类图表和插图所适用的写作目标。各类流程图和地图适合用来说明程序和解释关系,表格、图表和示意图适合用来表现趋势和关系。另外,该章还紧扣时代特点讲解了在电子文本中使用照片、视频和插图展示描述对象的方法。

第二单元 通信和会议发言(第八至十二章)

该单元介绍了各种职业都需要的、在商务领域最为实用的几类文体。

第八章 职场通信:信函、备忘录和电子邮件

概述了函件的写作原则:明确简洁、结构清晰、语法正确、礼貌得体。分别讲解了信函、备忘录和 电子邮件的基本格式。然后分六种不同情形分析了函件的写作方法。

第九章 简历、雇佣信和申请表

介绍了求职的时间规划、求职前准备、简历制作、求职信件写作和填写申请表这几个环节的注意事项。

第十章 成果汇编和面试

与第九章一脉相承、介绍了如何用制作精良的成果汇编为面试加分。

第十一章 新闻交流: 新闻稿、宣传册和网页

讲解了企业对外宣传所涉及的几种写作文体,包括新闻通稿、业务简讯、宣传册和网页。在进行此类写作时,除了应考虑文本的信息、读者和交际目的,还需要分析文本能够占有的空间、时效性和制作成本。

第十二章 会议发言

会议发言是当今很多职业都需要掌握的沟通形式。尽管发言是口头的,但是在准备讲稿和幻灯片等 环节都离不开写作。该章解释了准备会议发言时应如何分析环境、听众和报告目的,重点讲述了如何选 择会议发言的技术手段,如何搭配文字和图表,如何让发言简练明晰、前后一致、具有观赏性,并讲解 了准备发言、讲行发言和问答等环节需要注意的问题。

第三单元 报告书(第十三至十六章)

该单元用五章的篇幅讲授书面报告写作的一般原则,并重点讲授了四类书面报告的构成要素和写作 方法,包括技术领域常见的说明书。

第十三章 职场报告书的写作原则

该章概述了报告书的种类,并通过大量实例详细讲解了正式报告的各种构成要素。

第十四章 建议报告

此类报告一般是为了解决某个问题提出建议,需要解释建议的内容并论证其合理性。该章介绍了形成解决方案应遵循的逻辑思路,讲解了此类方案各构成要素的写作方法,以及如何把报告文体与函件形式相结合,传递给他人。

第十五章 提案

此类报告是企业寻求机构合作、争取政府投资项目、个人申请研究项目时的常用文体。该章详述了企业征募性提案和自发性提案的写作方法、并简述论文开题报告的写作方法。

第十六章 说明书

优秀的说明书能够帮助企业建立良好的客户关系,规避法律风险,指导员工迅速熟悉岗位。该章详述了写作说明书的具体步骤,帮助读者熟悉各种说明书的写作方法,并讲解了如何测试说明书是否好用。

第四单元 调研(第十七至十九章)

该单元讲解了多种为调研服务的写作方式和文体,不仅适用于学术论文写作,也适用于不同行业和机构的调研活动。

第十七章 调研策略

简要介绍了如何确定研究问题,搜集和评估信息。重点讲解了如何做各类研究笔记,特别是如何灵活利用电脑技术对笔记进行分类、标注和存储。

第十八章 调研场所和信息来源:图书馆和互联网网站

介绍了从实体图书馆检索和在网络上查询研究所需信息的方法。重点讲解了如何充分利用电子数据库、门户网站和搜索引擎检索专业文献。

第十九章 引证方法

详细讲解了在研究报告或论文中规范的文献引用和注释方式,以及正文后参考文献清单的撰写方法,

特别介绍了 APA 和 MLA 两种被广泛接受的研究论文撰写格式。另外,指出了在使用企业数据信息、正式出版文献、政府部门文件、网络信息等各种信息时的注意事项。

三、推荐相关参考书

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译者序

职场上的成功,或许有不同原因,但是,具备良好的交流能力却是成功的必要条件。随着相关科技的不断发展,职场文字交流的条件和环境也发生了巨大变化。交流手段更为多样,除传统邮寄信函外,电子邮件日益成为交流的重要方式,职场交流甚至可以包括网络"会话"等形式;为了达到更好的交流效果,传统的报告、会议发言、新闻发布等交流形式更是常常穿插使用投影视图和文字说明。一方面,计算机和网络技术的广泛应用以及信息搜集、存储和传播技术的发展使文字信息交流更加快捷和方便,另一方面,职场上需要通过写作交流信息的场合也大大增加。同时,为了使交流内容更加易于理解,人们在写作时,还常常需要应用便利的计算机软件工具,设计、处理文件中的视图。这些职场写作方式和环境的新进展要求人们不断学习和改进自己的交流技能。

除了科技带来的变化,全球化的进程也使职场交流主体发生了相应变化。过去,职场交流对象往往与写作者或讲话者的国家、民族和文化背景相似。而今天,交流双方或多方常常具有不同国家、民族和文化背景。这不仅仅源于日益增多的国际化交流,而且许多机构内部也正在出现国际化趋势。国有企业聘用外籍员工,外资公司聘用不同国籍和文化背景的员工,这样的现象在我国已经司空见惯。我们知道,成功的交流,无论是书面还是口头形式,都需要考虑读者或听者的特点、需要、期望和态度。这并非抽象、泛泛的体谅态度和考虑周全的修辞或表述,而是因人、因事而异的具体分析和相应的交流策略。显然,不同的文化传统、宗教信仰、思维习惯、伦理标准等都对职场交流提出了新的挑战。这同样要求人们学习相关的交际知识、了解交流过程,进而能够更好地策划具体交流内容和形式,以获得最佳交流效果。

本书推出了第七版,目的是帮助学习者应对变化中的专业职场交流环境,了解近十年来的职场交流实践,熟悉新的交流理念,学习相关技能。

本书尤其适合准备进入职场的大学生,写作课教师以及希望提高自身交流水平的职场人士。本书既可以作为教材用于学生和教师、学生和学生之间的互动学习过程,也可以作为参考书籍供自学者系统了解当今专业职场交流模式和动态、学习和提高交流技能、掌握相关理念。学习者既可以系统学习本教材主要内容,以便较为全面地提高职场交流能力,也可以专门针对某些交流领域,如图文设计、撰写建议书等,有选择地使用本书章节内容,甚至可以使用本书作为英文写作规范手册,在写作过程中参照使用本书。

本书将日常职场交流按其交际功能分门别类,讲解如何完成不同类型的交流任务。本书涉及的写作任务类型囊括基本通信和会议发言,这其中包括:传统信函、电子邮件、多媒体辅助会议发言、简历、成果汇编、求职信、新闻稿、业务通讯、宣传册、网页等;报告书,这其中包括:推荐报告、提案、使用说明书等;调研,这其中包括:调研策略、图书馆和互联网调研、文献引用等。

本书使用了较多写作文本实例,而这些实例大多来源于职场实际交流实践,目的是使书本知识尽可能和职场实践相互密切结合,达到真正学以致用的效果。同时,本书内容安排上采用由浅入深的方法, 先从一般的通信交流开始,步步深入,直到撰写报告书等较为复杂的文件。 本书的一个特点是将视图的设计和制作作为当下职场交流的重要一环,尤其强调视图和文字的有机结合。对于即将步入职场的学生和希望提高交流能力的职场人士来说,这自然提出了更高要求。也就是说,我们不但要有良好的文字交流和文件格式设计能力,而且还要掌握相关的计算机工具和视图制作的基本技能。因此,在这一领域,本书着墨颇多,详尽解释了文件视图部分设计和使用原则以及各种类型视图的具体使用方法。毋庸置疑,本书强调图文结合的交流模式相当契合当今电子技术高速发展的现实,这同时也是职场交流的新趋势。

本书的编写显然吸收、融合了写作教学研究的最新成果,强调写作学习过程中学生的主动性。学习写作不再是机械模仿语言的结构和形式,而是根据具体目的和具体读者情况在写作过程中做出主动抉择,搜集和组织所需信息,撰写、修改文本。写作学习的关注点从写作本身扩展到写作前对读者和写作场合的分析以及后续交流反馈分析。本书一方面详细解释具体写作任务的各个步骤和环节,另一方面启发、鼓励学生主动搜集相关材料和信息并与学习伙伴讨论相关问题、提出各自看法,并以提示、建议的方式引导学生将学到的知识运用于写作过程的各个阶段。书中除个人写作练习之外,还专门加入学习伙伴之间的互动、合作写作练习,甚至在一些章节中加入一些国际学生之间的跨文化交流活动。这样的合作练习提升了学生在学习过程中的互动协同能力和自主思考批判能力,使学习过程贴近职场交流协同合作的发展趋势。

本书作者尤其强调交流信息、交流对象和交流目的在整个写作过程中的关键性作用和三者之间的关联。信息的内容和表达方式取决于交流目的和交流对象的需要和期望,也最终决定是否能够达到预期交流目的。三者的互动关系是本书的主要关注点。显然,作者十分注重写作的交际性,将交际法教学理念贯穿于写作学习的始终,引导学生分析交流对象的心理和交流目的,并据此组织交流信息。在强调写作是交际活动的同时,本书并没有忽视语法等语言规范要求。这尤其有助于中国学生解决英文写作中遇到的语言规则问题。

本书内容的编排凸显作者重视学生实际需求的教学理念,章节和章节内容的设计以培训学生职场交流能力为目的。书中各章均为学生学习职场交流所必需,并覆盖了职场写作的基本功能领域,有利于学生获得较为全面的职场交流能力。这样的编排方法突出了交际活动的功能性,便于学生从不同功能角度了解和模拟职场交际活动。本书各章开篇一般会概述涉及的具体领域,使学生总体了解相关背景和基本概念,之后进一步分解该领域交流活动,启发学生领会具体交流过程,每章最后部分引导学生思考、运用相关原则和实践步骤,参与并完成具体任务。这样的编排设计既体现了贯穿始终的写作理论思想,也为教师和学生提供了便捷和系统的教学和学习步骤和方法。

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Preface 前 言

Because professional workplace practices and your needs as a student preparing to enter the workplace have undergone vast and rapid changes since 2000, the year our previous edition was published, this seventh edition in many ways is a new book. We have added a new chapter, extensively revised six chapters, and have made numerous changes and additions to update all remaining chapters. Our aims in revising the book, as they have been in all previous editions, are

- 1. to incorporate up-to-date research and communication practices and other current developments in the workplace.
- 2. to provide clear, detailed, and realistic suggestions for communicating in the workplace.

The revisions—as those in past editions—continue to reflect the increased diversification and professionalism of the workforce, the globalization of the workplace, and the expansion of computers and electronic media into a web of overlapping practices that have influenced all aspects of communication and have led to new perspectives on research, document design, visuals, writing, reading, speaking, and the storage, retrieval, and transmittal of information.

The organization of the book remains essentially the same as in earlier editions. It is divided into five major units. Unit I, consisting of Chapters 1 though 7, covers the basic principles of communication that relate to all the other chapters. Unit II, consisting of Chapters 8 through 12, gives advice and practice for creating short messages, documents and presentations. Unit III, consisting of Chapters 13 through 17, covers somewhat more specialized and complex documents. Unit IV, consisting of Chapters 18 through 21, explains how to conduct research efficiently and to document sources correctly. Unit V is our handbook—a succinct guide to the style and conventions of writing.

New in the Seventh Edition

In addition to updating many of the writing samples for this seventh edition, we have made significant revisions by adding information about trends and developments that have been around for a decade or so but which have accelerated during the past three or four years.

- In Chapter 1, "The Process of Workplace Communication," we continue to focus on setting objectives, organizing material, planning visuals; and researching, drafting, revising, documents and presentations; and communicating ethically. We have expanded our comments on collaborative work.
- We have revised Chapter 4 to expand on the cultural differences among writers and readers and speakers and listeners, emphasizing the need to think internationally to help reduce the potential for miscommunication when writing or speaking to audiences whose primary language is other than English. The principles presented in this chapter will also help you prepare documents and presentations so those who have to translate them will understand more clearly what you intend to say. The revisions are so extensive that we have retitled the chapter "Creating World-Ready Documents and Presentations: Style and Tone."
- Our new Chapter 8, "Workplace Correspondence: Letters, Memos, and E-mail," replaces Chapters 8 and 9 of the sixth edition. The result, we believe, brings decisions about format and content closer together.
- Chapter 11, "Communicating News: News-Release Publications, Brochures, and Web Sites," is a new chapter. We briefly describe documents you may be called upon to write to describe or promote your organization's activities, products, and services.
- Chapter 12, our chapter on oral presentations, has changed significantly to reflect the increasing reliance on computers and presentations software. You will find yourself making informal reports in meetings with colleagues and giving reports using multimedia for large audiences. The principles of oral communication have adapted to the increasing use of different media for presenting reports.
- Chapter 13, "Principles of Workplace Reports," illustrates the elements of workplace reports using two reports published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: the *Draft Report on the Environment 2003* and *EPA's Draft Report on the Environment: Technical Document.* (The word *draft* is included in the titles of these reports to indicate an ongoing national dialogue on the environment.) The *Draft Report* is written for widespread distribution; the *Technical Document's* target audience is scientists. We encourage you to compare the documents.
- Increased use of computers and searches on the World Wide Web have created a major shift in research strategies and the documentation of research.

The Core of the Book

Although no chapter in this seventh edition remains unchanged, we have maintained the core of the book to which students and teachers have re-

sponded enthusiastically through several editions: We focus on the research, writing, reading, and speaking that goes on in the professional workplace and on the basic triad of workplace communication—information, audience, and purpose.

- We break these workplace activities into their day-to-day tasks, such as basic correspondence (including e-mail, oral and multimedia presentations, electronically scannable resumes, and professional portfolios), reports (including proposals, recommendation reports, and instructions), and research (including library, field, and internet searches).
- We explain as carefully and precisely as we can how to accomplish each of these activities. We use real examples, most reproduced as they originally appeared in some work situation. Several examples are produced by students. And while we designed the book for the classroom, we want it to have the feel of the world when one day the classroom tasks will become the real thing.
- We continue to regard our audience as the student who is being educated for a specific vocation or profession. We visualize you as practical and industrious, willing to work when shown what needs to be done, and one who wants to continue to develop verbal, visual, and computer literacy. Our purpose, as in previous editions, is to lead you from the simpler forms of correspondence to the challenging complexities of reports and other kinds of documents, including oral presentations and professional portfolios.
- We continue to believe that carefully integrated visuals should be a
 part of nearly every assignment. We regard visuals not as merely aids
 in writing and speaking but as equal to written and spoken language in
 documents and presentations. The choice of the appropriate medium
 should be made on the basis of subject, purpose, audience, and cost.
- We provide planning checklists to guide you through the discovery and organizing stages of the writing process. The revision checklists provide you with an organized approach to revision for both when you write as an individual and when you collaborate with others. The checklists also provide useful evaluation criteria for peer evaluators and the teacher.
- Where appropriate, we have added to the activities at the end of chapters, suggestions not only for individual activities but also activities for collaborative assignments and activities that emphasize multicultural considerations. These activities, along with the planning checklists, meet the needs of varied educational situations and help you organize your efforts and encourage diligence and thoroughness in your work habits.

The unifying theme of this book continues to be that workplace writing and speaking presents specific information to a specific audience for a specific purpose. To put it another way, an occasion for a piece of workplace writing or for a workplace presentation always exists.

Workplace writing and speaking is usually generated by a specific piece of information that must be presented: In answer to your query about the pricing of the Maltrex 5540. . . . We are on time with the computer conversion. . . . This is how you build the 86204 Heat Exchanger. In the workplace, you write or make an oral presentation when you have something to say.

When you present your information, you must think of your audience. You must always be concerned with questions about how the occasion and the audience's expectations and needs shape your report or presentation: Who will read my report? Who will hear my presentation? Why will they read or listen? What will they want from the report or presentation? What do they already know about the subject? What is left to tell them?

Furpose is usually closely meshed with the audience's expectations and needs. You write and speak a certain way for bankers so that the bankers can get the information they need. But you go to bankers in the first place because your purpose is to get a loan. Often you will have multiple purposes for writing or speaking. Suppose, for example, you were writing to policyholders of an insurance company to tell them their rates for automobile insurance are to be increased. If your purpose were only to announce the new rates, you could send out a printed table showing the increase. But you would have an additional purpose: keeping the policyholders with the company. Therefore you would justify the increase, showing how circumstances beyond the company's control forced the increase. For good measure, you would remind the policyholders of the good service they have received from the company in the past.



Information . . . audience . . . purpose . . . the basic triad of workplace writing and speaking. We will remind you of it often in these pages, because the bringing together of all these elements is really what this book is all about.

Acknowledgments

This book represents our cumulative experiences and knowledge as we have learned in the workplace and the classroom and from our colleagues and students. We are pleased to acknowledge several people, by name or group.

As in previous editions, we thank Professor Frederick H. MacIntosh of the University of North Carolina and John A. Walter of the University of Texas. We thank Professor MacIntosh for his phrase "writing for the world's work," which in modified form has become part of our title. Professor Walter we thank again for his statement that "Scientists and engineers are concerned, when they write, with presenting information to a specific body of readers for a specific purpose." We think all professionals in the workplace have these basic concerns, and we believe they should permeate every portion of writing and speaking—from word to sentence to paragraph to the entire document or presentation. Our version of Professor Walter's statement—workplace communication presents information to a specific audience for a specific purpose—is stated and illustrated frequently throughout this book.

We owe a great deal of thanks to teachers across the country and in other countries who have used earlier editions of this book in their classes. Many have been kind enough to pass on comments from their students or encouraged their students to write us about how helpful they found the book. We view this book as a collaborative effort of ourselves and the many teachers and students who have written to us. We have especially benefited from the thoughtful suggestions of the following: O. Jane Allen, Joan Buckley, William G. Clark, Mary C. Cosgrove, Janet Forsman, Kyle Gearhart, Albert Geritz, Hal Gilstad, Susan J. Griffiths, Joan Grimm, Robert C. Grotius, Loren Gruber, Margot A. Haberhorn, John S. Harris, James Helvey, Jeffrey M. Johnson, Betsy Goebel Jones, Michael Keene, Shannon Kiser, Joel Kowalski (for the Canadian edition), Carol Lipson, Allison McCormack, Frances Blosser Maguire, Marianne Micros (for the Canadian edition), James Miles, Barbara Murray, Brian O'Meara (for the Canadian edition), Michael E. Petty, Randal L. Popken, L. Dan Richards, Lolita Rodman (for the Canadian edition), Ellen M. Scanlin, Joan Sherman, Maureen Schmid, Arlo Stoltenberg, Michael Stugrin, Thomas Warren, and Hilbert B. Williams.

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Donald H. Cunningham Elizabeth Overman Smith Thomas E. Pearsall