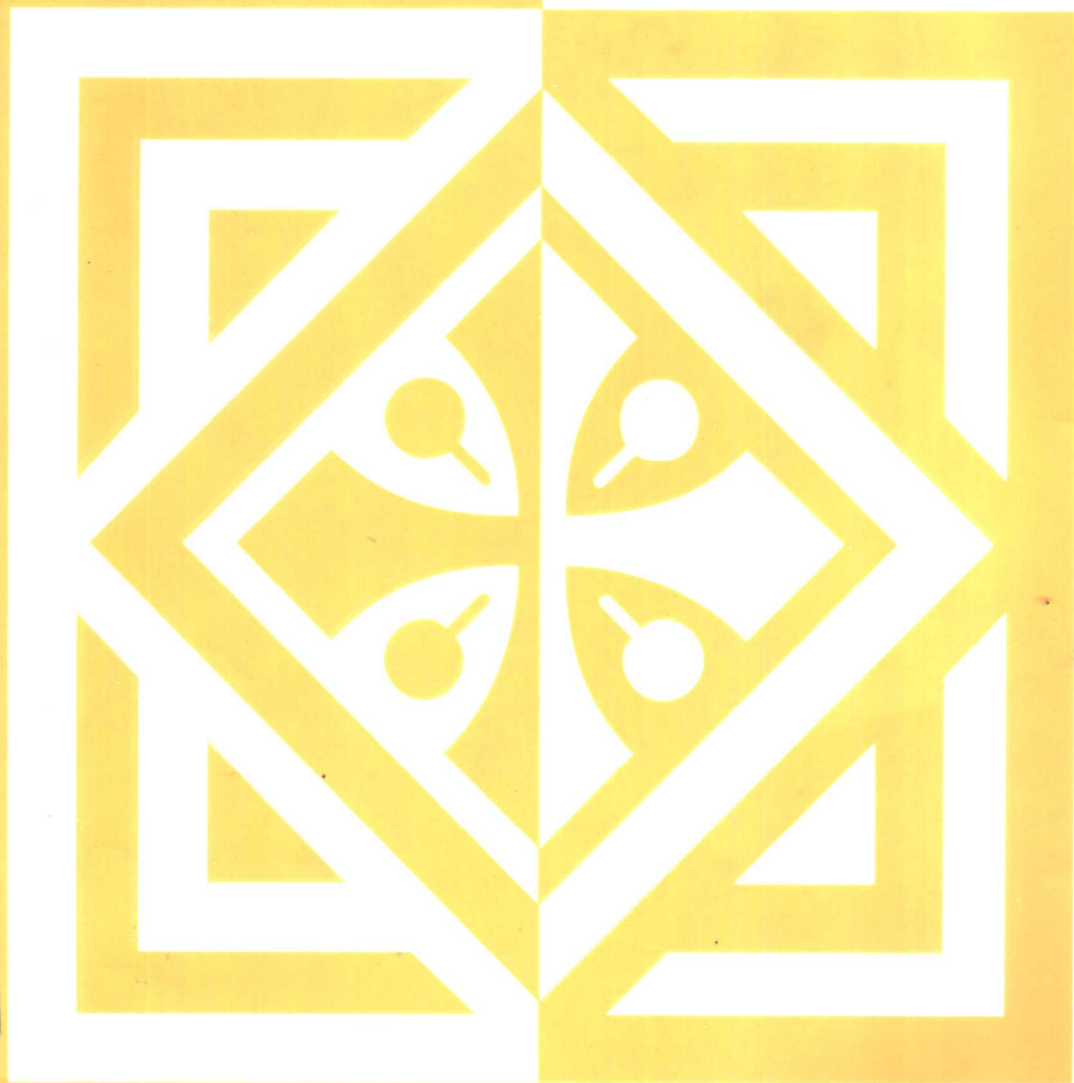


TRANSITIONS

From
Reading

To
Writing



Barbara Fine Clouse

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From Reading
To Writing

Barbara Fine Clouse

McGraw-Hill, Inc.

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From Reading To Writing

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1

HOW TO
BE AN
ACTIVE READER

In this chapter, you will learn some facts about reading that may surprise you. You will also learn about active reading, a process for reading efficiently and thoughtfully.

Perhaps you believe that you already know how to read, so this chapter does not apply to you; but keep an open mind. College work requires a special kind of reading that you must learn in order to succeed in your course work.

Back up and take another look at the title of this chapter. See the word *active*? It's the most important word on the page, even in the whole chapter, because it describes your role as a reader. I know, I know—you thought reading was supposed to be a relaxing, passive activity. You thought you could carry your book over to that inviting, overstuffed easy chair, sink into the softness, open to the first page, and sit comfortably, waiting for the author to entertain you or inform you or challenge you or amuse you or frighten you or cheer you up. Well, you can—as long as you are reading for the sheer fun of it, just to enjoy yourself. There's certainly nothing wrong with that, especially if you're at the beach or unwinding after a difficult day. But college reading demands something more of you. You must let go of your passive role and learn to be an active reader, someone who interacts with the text and works at coming to terms with it. That's what this chapter is about, helping you learn strategies for active reading so you can make the most of your college texts.