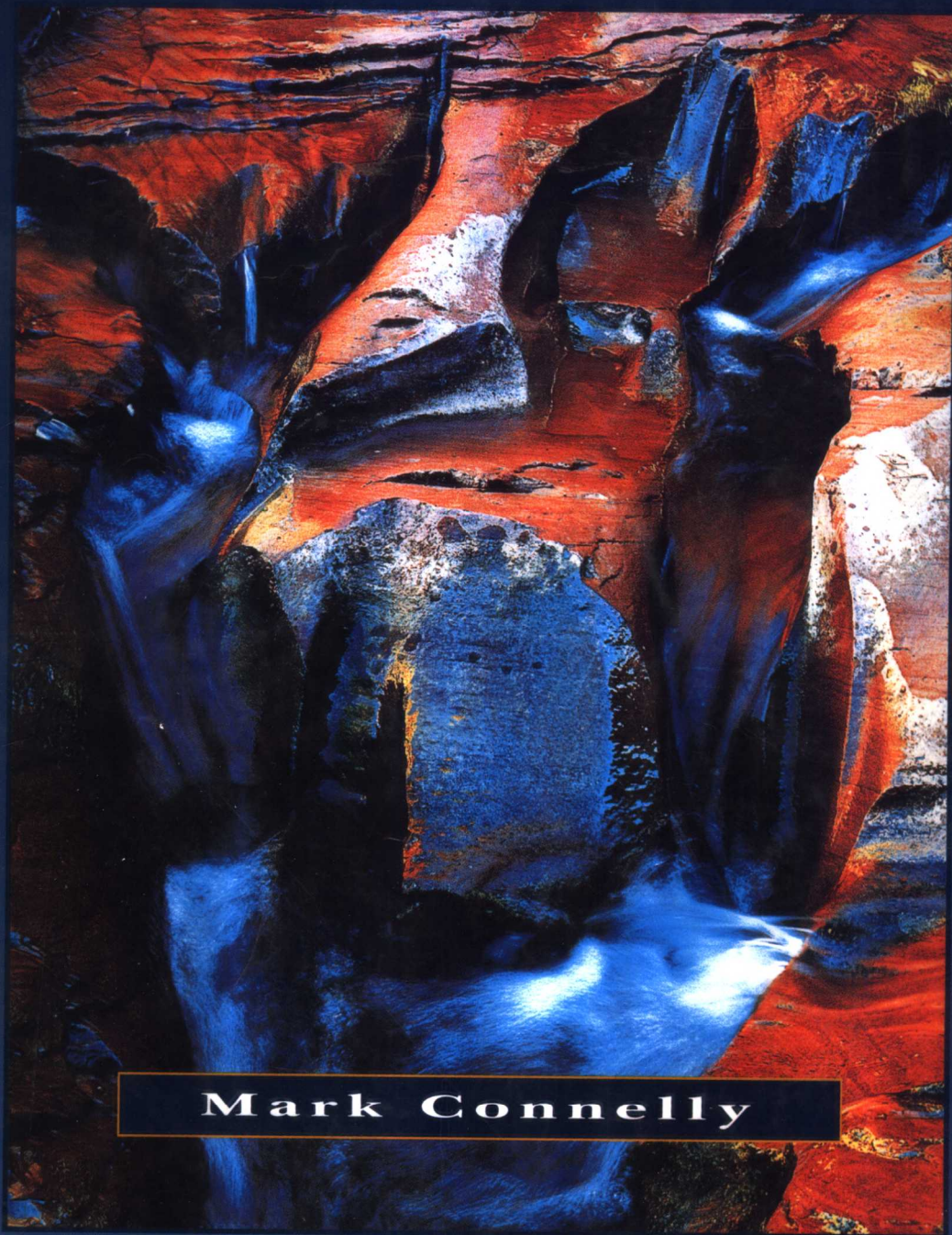


# The Sundance Reader



Mark Connelly

# **The Sundance Reader**

**MARK CONNELLY**

MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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## PREFACE

*The Sundance Reader* contains over ninety readings drawn from a range of academic disciplines and professions. The collection of essays and articles organized by rhetorical modes includes both classic and contemporary authors such as George Orwell, E. B. White, Alice Walker, Cornel West, and Terry Tempest Williams. In addition to writing from the disciplines of law, medicine, and science by writers such as Joseph Biden, Oliver Sacks, Jane Goodall, and Carl Sagan, *The Sundance Reader* offers students practical advice on resumé writing and job interviews. Applied readings at the end of each chapter demonstrate how writers use the rhetorical modes beyond the classroom. Entries such as "The Reconstructed Logbook of the *Titanic*," "Interrogation of Lee Harvey Oswald," and "The Heimlich Maneuver" illustrate various writing tasks students will face in future courses and in their careers.

*The Sundance Reader's* wide variety of topics on the environment, culture, social issues, and business make the textbook suitable for thematic courses. Individual chapters include self-contained units on current issues, and the thematic contents lists a number of topics that can be explored in depth.

With its wealth of readings and a four-part questioning strategy following each entry, *The Sundance Reader* provides students a unique perspective on how writing is shaped in different contexts.

*The Sundance Reader* has several features that make it a useful teaching tool for college instructors:

- **A range of readings** Each chapter opens with brief, readable entries which clearly demonstrate the rhetorical mode, followed by longer, more challenging essays. Each chapter highlights a model "blending" the modes showing how writers often use several methods of development to tell a story or explain a process. Samples of applied writing appear at the end, illustrating how writers use the mode in different professions. Instructors have flexibility in assigning readings best suited to their student populations.
- **Brief entries suitable for in-class reading** Many of the essays are short enough to be read in class and used as writing prompts, reducing the need for handouts.
- **An emphasis on writing** *The Sundance Reader* moves students from *reading* to *writing*. Chapters open with reading questions and conclude with writing guidelines and lists of suggested topics. Each chapter ends with a checklist of common writing problems.

- **Writers on writing** The readings include William Zinsser's "The Transaction" and Peter Elbow's "Desperation Writing" which examine writing as both a process and a product. Fran Martin's "Documentation Tips" explains how nurses should word reports to prevent malpractice suits. In "Resumes That Rate a Second Look," Anne Weisbord demonstrates the importance of writing skills to job seekers.
- **An emphasis on critical thinking** *The Sundance Reader* stresses critical thinking by including James Austin's article about the role of chance in scientific research and S. I. Hayakawa's "Reports, Inferences, and Judgments" analyzing the way language shapes meaning. Samuel Scudder's essay "Take This Fish and Look at It" dramatizes the importance of detailed observation. Darrell Huff's "How to Lie with Statistics" and John Allen Paulos's "Innumeracy" heighten student awareness of how statistics are misused and manipulated.
- **Pro and con entries** Instructors have found that presenting essays with contrasting viewpoints can stimulate class discussion and prompt writing activities. *The Sundance Reader* presents pairs of pro and con articles on three critical issues: global warming, gender differences, and bilingualism.
- **Focus on diversity** Over a third of the selections are written by women. African-American, Asian, Hispanic, and Native-American writers are well-represented. In addition to social commentaries by Gloria Steinem and Martin Luther King, women and minorities are featured in nontraditional areas such as science, technology, and advertising.
- **Writing across the curriculum** *The Sundance Reader* demonstrates how each mode is developed by writers working in several disciplines, including law, medicine, psychology, history, law enforcement, and business.
- **Writing beyond the classroom** Each chapter includes a section illustrating how writers use the modes in "the real world." Advertisements, brochures, government documents, and a resumé introduce elements of business and technical writing to composition students. In addition, several of the entries taken from academic journals are reproduced with full documentation.
- **Collaborative writing** Writing suggestions following the readings include directions for collaborative writing activities. The introduction provides useful guidelines for successful group writing.
- **Advice on the job search** *The Sundance Reader* contains articles offering students practical advice on writing resumé, succeeding in job interviews, and evaluating job offers. Other articles provide recommendations for entrepreneurs and business managers.

Above all, *The Sundance Reader* has been designed to encourage students to read and develop confidence as writers.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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