

College Writing Skills with Readings

Fifth Edition



John Langan

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John Langan

Atlantic Cape Community College



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McGraw-Hill Higher Education

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COLLEGE WRITING SKILLS WITH READINGS

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This book is printed on acid-free paper.

5 6 7 8 9 0 FGR/FGR 0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

ISBN 0-07-238121-3 (student ed.)

Editorial director: *Phillip A. Butcher*
Senior sponsoring editor: *Sarah Touborg*
Developmental editor II: *Alexis Walker*
Marketing manager: *Thayne Conrad*
Senior project manager: *Pat Frederickson*
Production supervisor: *Rose Hepburn*
Designer: *Jennifer Hollingsworth*
Cover illustration: *Paul Turnbaugh*
Supplement coordinator: *Carol A. Bielski*
Compositor: *Electronic Publishing Services, Inc., TN*
Typeface: *11/13 Times Roman*
Printer: *Quebecor Printing Book Group/Fairfield*

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Langan, John, 1942-

College writing skills with readings / John Langan.—5th ed.

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN 0-07-238121-3 (student ed) — ISBN 0-07-238122-1 (annotated instructors ed)

1. English language—Rhetoric. 2. English language—Grammar. 3. College readers. 4. Report writing. I. Title.

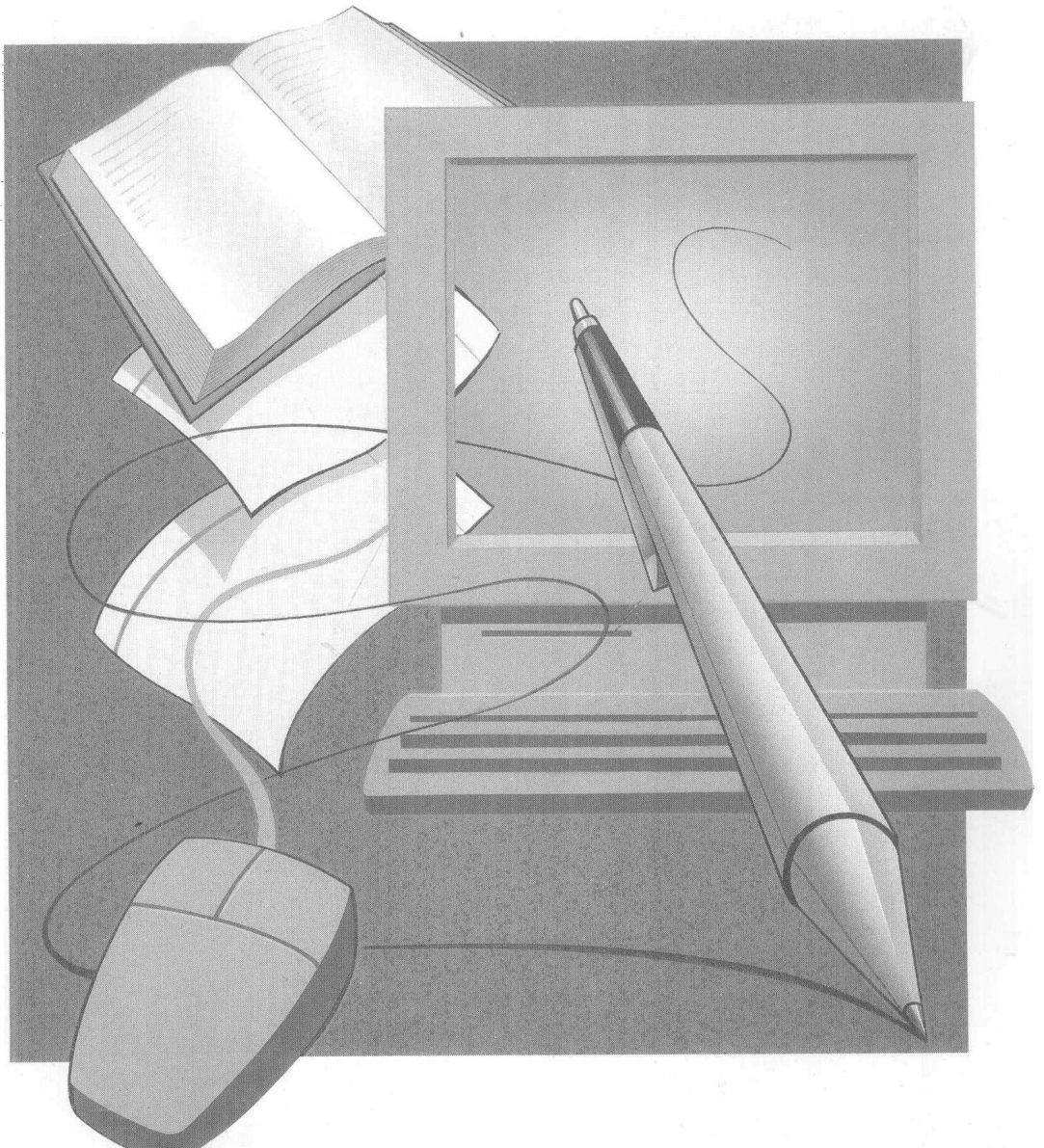
PE1408.L3178 2000

808'.0427—dc21

00-024280

<http://www.mhhe.com>

College Writing Skills with Readings



Praise for *College Writing Skills with Readings*

"I keep coming back to it for my pre-college composition classes because it is a rich resource for ever-changing, always unpredictable students of our time. *College Writing Skills with Readings* provides something for everyone and the basics that everyone needs."

Douglas Fosseck, Santa Barbara City College

"A good rhetoric is not only a manual for composition; it's a usage and style source book, a research reference, a skills text, and even a good read. [*College Writing Skills with Readings*] is really all of these. It's the kind of book we urge our students not to sell at the end of the semester."

Phil Marchesseault, Mitchell College

"For students with little or no experience of writing, [*College Writing Skills with Readings*] demystifies the writing process and reveals its face, warts and all, to the student who cares to read and learn."

David Ledel, Weatherford College

"Langan does a wonderful job of reflecting the nontraditional as well as the traditional student, and of providing readings that appeal to an ethnically diverse audience."

Pamela Arlov, Macon State College

"The biggest advantage this text has over others is the respectful tone taken towards the students. There is no 'talking down' here, and the author seems to build on an awareness that many of the students bring a wealth of experience and ideas. Thus, the first steps are not recognition of deficits but an appreciation of the richness developmental students bring."

Renee Shea, Bowie State University

"The greatest strength of *College Writing Skills* is the writing. The voice in the text is serious but friendly, authoritative but sympathetic. It is never condescending; it never tries to be cute or hip. The advice and instruction are clear and easy to follow. As my students like to say, 'It gets right to the point.' The writer is obviously an experienced teacher with a clear understanding of our students' weaknesses and strengths."

Marilyn Davis, Johnson and Wales University

"*College Writing Skills with Readings* is a well-defined resource for teaching college writing skills. The text provides the necessary components a college writer needs. Its diversity enhances the text even more, [with its] student models, ESL pointers, diverse reading selections, etc."

Judy D. Covington, Trident Technical College

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ISBN: 0-07-036440-0 (Copyright © 1998)

Reading and Study Skills, Form B, Fifth Edition

ISBN: 0-07-036413-3 (Copyright © 1994)

Readings Listed by Rhetorical Mode

Note: Some selections are cross-listed because they illustrate more than one rhetorical method of development.

Description

Lou's Place *Beth Johnson*
A Hanging *George Orwell*
In My Day *Russell Baker*
A Love Affair with Books *Bernadete Piassa*
The Monster *Deems Taylor*
Is Sex All That Matters? *Joyce Garity*

Narration

Lou's Place *Beth Johnson*
The Yellow Ribbon *Pete Hamill*
Shame *Dick Gregory*
I Became Her Target *Roger Wilkins*
The Ambivalence of Abortion *Linda Bird Francke*
A Hanging *George Orwell*
A Love Affair with Books *Bernadete Piassa*
Bombs Bursting in Air *Beth Johnson*

Examples

Dad *Andrew H. Malcolm*
How to Do Well on a Job Interview *Glenda Davis*

American Family Life: The Changing Picture *Donna Barron*
Television Addiction *Marie Winn*
Wait Divisions *Tom Bodett*
Ban the Things. Ban Them All. *Molly Ivins*
Thank You *Alex Haley*
A Love Affair with Books *Bernadete Piassa*
Sex, Lies, and Conversation *Deborah Tannen*
The Monster *Deems Taylor*
Date Rape *Ellen Sweet*
Propaganda Techniques *Ann McClintock*
Bombs Bursting in Air *Beth Johnson*
Kids and Computers: Digital Danger *Alison Sperry*
Seven Ways to Keep the Peace at Home *Daniel A. Sugarman*
Here's to Your Health *Joan Dunayer*
Is Sex All That Matters? *Joyce Garity*

Process

How to Do Well on a Job Interview *Glenda Davis*
How to Make It in College, Now That You're Here *Brian O'Keeney*
Seven Ways to Keep the Peace at Home *Daniel A. Sugarman*

Cause and Effect

How to Do Well on a Job Interview *Glenda Davis*
Why Do Most Mothers Cradle Their Babies in the Left Arm? *Desmond Morris*
Television Addiction *Marie Winn*
Thank You *Alex Haley*
Shame *Dick Gregory*
Smash Thy Neighbor *John McMurtry*
A Love Affair with Books *Bernadete Piassa*
Sex, Lies, and Conversation *Deborah Tannen*
Why Are Students Turned Off? *Casey Banas*
Date Rape *Ellen Sweet*
Propaganda Techniques *Ann McClintock*
Is Sex All That Matters? *Joyce Garity*

To the Instructor

College Writing Skills with Readings is a rhetoric with readings that will help students write more effectively. It is a practical book with a number of unique features designed to aid instructors and their students.

Key Features of the Book

- *Four principles are presented as keys to effective writing.* These four principles—unity, support, coherence, and sentence skills—are highlighted on the inside front cover and reinforced throughout the book.

Part One focuses on the first three principles and to some extent on sentence skills.

Parts Two and Three show, respectively, how the four principles apply in the different patterns of essay development and in specialized types of writing.

Part Four serves as a concise handbook of sentence skills.

Finally, the professional readings in **Part Five** are followed by questions and assignments that encourage students to apply the four principles in a variety of well-developed essays.

The ongoing success of *College Writing Skills with Readings* is evidence that the four principles are easily grasped, remembered, and followed by students.

- *Writing is treated as a process.* The first chapter introduces writing as both a skill and a process of discovery. The second chapter, “The Writing Process,” explains and illustrates the sequence of steps in writing an effective essay. In particular, the chapter focuses on prewriting and revision as strategies to use with any writing assignment. Detailed suggestions for prewriting and revision then accompany many of the writing assignments in Part Two.
- *Activities and assignments are numerous and varied.* For example, in Part One there are more than ninety activities to help students apply and master the four

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College Writing Skills with Readings is a rhetoric with readings that will help students master the four principles of effective writing. This book is a very practical book with a number of unique features designed to aid instructors and their students.

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- *Activities and assignments are numerous and varied.* For example, in Part One there are more than ninety activities to help students apply and master the four

principles, or bases, of effective writing. There are over two hundred and fifty activities and tests in the entire book. A variety of writing assignments follow each pattern of essay development in Part Two and each reading in Part Five. Some topics are highly structured, for students who are still learning the steps in the writing process; others are open-ended. Instructors thus have the option of selecting those assignments most suited to the individual needs of their students.

- *Clear thinking is stressed throughout.* This emphasis on logic starts with the opening pages of the book. Students are introduced to the two principles that are the bedrock of clear thinking: *making a point* and *providing support to back up that point*. The focus on these principles then continues throughout the book, helping students learn that clear writing is inseparable from clear thinking.
- *The traditional essay is emphasized.* Students are asked to write formal essays with an introduction, three supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion. Anyone who has tried to write a solidly reasoned essay knows how much work is involved. A logical essay requires a great deal of mental discipline and close attention to a set of logical rules. Writing an essay in which there is an overall thesis statement and in which each of three supporting paragraphs begins with a topic sentence is more challenging for many students than writing a free-form or expressive essay. The demands are significant, but the rewards are great.

At the same time that students learn and practice the rules of the five-paragraph essay, professional essays representing the nine patterns of development show them variations possible within the essay form. These essays provide models if instructors decide that their students will benefit from moving beyond the traditional essay form.

- *Lively teaching models are provided.* The book includes two high-interest student essays and one engaging professional essay with each chapter in Part Two. Students then read and evaluate these essays in terms of the four bases: unity, support, coherence, and sentence skills. Instructors can also refer their students to appropriate essays from the collection of professional readings in Part Five. After reading vigorous papers by other students as well as papers by professional authors and experiencing the power that good writing can have, students will be encouraged to aim for a similar honesty, realism, and detail in their own work.
- *The book is versatile.* Since no two people use an English text in exactly the same way, the material has been organized in a highly accessible manner. Each of the five parts of the book deals with a distinct area of writing. Instructors can therefore turn quickly and easily to the skills they want to present.
- *Twenty-one professional essays appear in Part Five.* These essays, like the nine professional readings in Part Two, deal with both contemporary and timeless concerns. They will stimulate lively class discussions and individual thought as well as serve as a rich source of material for a wide range of writing assignments.

There are three special features of Part Five. First is the emphasis placed on helping students become stronger readers. An introductory section offers tips on effective reading, and questions after each selection help students practice skills in both reading comprehension and critical thinking. A second feature of Part Five is a set of questions about structure and technique so that students can analyze and learn from a writer's craft in developing an essay. Finally, a series of writing assignments include suggestions and guidelines that will help students think about and proceed with an assignment.

Changes in the Fifth Edition

There are major changes and additions in this new edition of *College Writing Skills with Readings*:

- The most substantial change in the book is its *far greater emphasis on prewriting and revision*. A new chapter titled “The Writing Process” uses a model student essay to demonstrate how prewriting and revision are essential parts of the act of writing. And while Part One of the book continues to focus on four bases of effective writing—unity, support, coherence, and sentence skills—students also learn how prewriting and revision will help them achieve the four bases. Chapter 1 now helps students see writing, from the start, as both a skill and a process of discovery. Finally, detailed strategies for prewriting and revision are now part of many writing assignments that accompany the nine rhetorical patterns of essay development in Part Two.
- A major addition to the text is the *inclusion in Part Two of professional essays that illustrate each of the nine rhetorical patterns*. While the book continues to teach the traditional essay model, the professional essays show students other uses and treatments of the essay form. Students still learn the rigors and rewards of the strict five-paragraph essay, but they also see the rich variations that are possible once the rules, having been learned, can be broken. Questions on unity, support, coherence, and sentence skills follow each of the professional essays, just as they do the model student essays, helping to further reinforce the four bases of effective writing.
- The *number of readings in College Writing Skills with Readings has been increased from twenty-five to thirty, and fourteen of the selections are new to the book*. In addition, questions that follow the selections now place a greater emphasis on writing structure and technique as well as on critical reading and discussion.
- The book includes a *new model research paper* that examines a contemporary topic and follows the latest MLA guidelines, including citation of sources found on the Internet.

Patrick M. Haas, Glendale Community College
John G. Hoover, Santa Monica College
Lauri Humberson, St. Philip's College
Linda Kissler, Westmoreland County Community College
David Ledel, Weatherford College
John Lusk, St. Clair County Community College
Phil Marchesseault, Mitchell College
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Nancy M. Risch, Caldwell Community College
Harvey Rubinstein, Hudson County Community College
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Robert A. Stevens, Mott Community College
Agatha Taormina, Northern Virginia Community College
June M. Wenzel, Parkland College
Evangeline Wilkes-Vacca, Oxnard College
Lauren Yena, Johnson and Wales University

I am also grateful for help provided by Janet M. Goldstein, Beth Johnson, Carole Mohr, Paul Langan, Eliza Comodromos, and Judith Nadell, as well as for the talented support of past and present McGraw-Hill editors: Susan Gamer, Sarah Touborg, and Alexis Walker.

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- *WebWrite!* is an interactive peer-editing program that allows students to post papers, read comments from their peers and instructor, discuss, and edit *online*. To learn more, visit the online demo at www.metatext.com/webwrite.

Supplements for Students

- An *Online Learning Center* (www.mhhe.com/langan) offers a host of instructional aids and additional resources for students, including self-correcting exercises, writing activities for additional practice, a PowerPoint grammar tutorial, guides to doing research on the Internet and avoiding plagiarism, useful weblinks, and more.
- A *Student CD-ROM* (ISBN 0-07-242354-4) offers all of the resources of the Students' Online Learning Center and M.O.R.E. (McGraw-Hill Online Resources for English, also available online at www.mhhe.com/english) in a convenient offline format.
- *AllWrite! 2.0* is an interactive, browser-based tutorial program that provides an online handbook, comprehensive diagnostic pre-tests and post-tests, and extensive practice exercises in every area.

You can contact your local McGraw-Hill representative or consult McGraw-Hill's web site at www.mhhe.com/english for more information on the supplements that accompany *College Writing Skills with Readings, Fifth Edition*.

Acknowledgments

Reviewers who have contributed to this edition through their helpful comments include

Pamela Arlou, Macon State College
Virginia Brackett, Triton College
Laurie Buchholz, Porterville College
Judy D. Covington, Trident Technical College
Gaylene Croker, Oxnard College
Marilyn Davis, Johnson and Wales University
Jeannie Dobson, Greenville Technical College
Douglas Fossek, Santa Barbara City College
Linda Foster, Central Connecticut State University
Robert Fuhrel, Community College of Southern Nevada
John Gregg, San Diego Mesa College

Patrick M. Haas, Glendale Community College
John G. Hoover, Santa Monica College
Lauri Humberson, St. Philip's College
Linda Kissler, Westmoreland County Community College
David Ledel, Weatherford College
John Lusk, St. Clair County Community College
Phil Marchesseault, Mitchell College
Peggy Pavlisin, Lincoln Land Community College
Nancy M. Risch, Caldwell Community College
Harvey Rubinstein, Hudson County Community College
Renee H. Shea, Bowie State University
Robert A. Stevens, Mott Community College
Agatha Taormina, Northern Virginia Community College
June M. Wenzel, Parkland College
Evangeline Wilkes-Vacca, Oxnard College
Lauren Yena, Johnson and Wales University

I am also grateful for help provided by Janet M. Goldstein, Beth Johnson, Carole Mohr, Paul Langan, Eliza Comodromos, and Judith Nadell, as well as for the talented support of past and present McGraw-Hill editors: Susan Gamer, Sarah Touborg, and Alexis Walker.

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