Wiener / Bazerman PLL OF US

A Multicultural Reading Skills Handbook
Second Edition



ALL OF US

A Multicultural Reading Skills Handbook

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Preface

Like its companion texts Basic Reading Skills Handbook and Reading Skills Handbook, All of Us: A Multicultural Reading Skills Handbook focuses on essential strategies for beginning college readers. These include literal comprehension skills, interpretation, evaluation and other critical thinking skills, and study skills. The text is divided into two main parts. The Handbook provides instruction in reading skills, integrated with more than 100 examples as well as practice exercises. The Reading Selections includes sixteen longer selections accompanied by exercises that are coordinated with and cross-referenced to the skills taught in the Handbook. Throughout the text, students will find questions that guide their understanding and interpretation of specific passages.

A Unique Approach to Reading -

What makes All of Us stand apart from other reading texts is its devotion to a curriculum of inclusion. Maintaining our attention to selections drawn from typical college reading matter across the curriculum, we tried to compile the richest and most ethnically diverse reading matter available. We wanted this book to reflect the unprecedented diversity of today's college classrooms. We also felt that if we filled our text with writing that trumpeted the voices, concerns, and experiences of an ethnically diverse America, we would strike deeply responsive chords in the lives of today's college reading students.

With these goals in mind, we chose the readings in the *Handbook* and the *Reading Selections'* examples and exercises from both ethnically diverse materials and challenging, content-rich readings typical of college course assignments. Sometimes these overlap. The material in Richard Schaefer's

piece on Native Americans, for example, is essential to any introductory sociology course. Hisaye Yamamoto's story about a young woman's experiences on a Los Angeles bus would suit an introductory literature or fiction writing course.

In other cases the materials stand side by side, complementing each other. In Chapter 1 of the Handbook, for example, we call upon these examples to illustrate reading aids to comprehension: a humanities text selection called "A Surging New Spirit: The Hispanic Influence on the American Cultural Mainstream"; text book excerpts concerning politics during World War II and the success of the Japanese in business; a text chapter called "A Brief Chronology of the Chinese in America"; an excerpt on "Ethics in Personal Selling" from a marketing text and one on "Alcohol and Society" from a health text; the contents page from Business Enterprise in American History; the introduction to Mexican-American Authors—and many others. Ethnically varied readings by a broad spectrum of writers, wide-ranging topics of interest to a pluralistic audience, challenging college texts-all of these elements fortify both the interest level and instructional potential for All of Us.

Focus on Critical Thinking -

Critical thinking is a major focus in this textbook. There is a full unit devoted to interpretive and evaluative skills, with chapters on inference, figurative language, drawing conclusions and predicting outcomes, making generalizations, and judging writers' ideas. The final chapter in this unit contains special instruction on how to make connections among readings and between readings and other experiences and on how to use collaboration to enhance learning. Because writing is a highly effective tool for expressing and strengthening these cognitive skills, we have included challenging writing exercises throughout the text.

- "Critical Thinking in Writing" exercises that follow each of the *Reading Selections* as well as many readings in the *Hand-book* stimulate interaction between the reader and ideas expressed in the selection.
- "Connecting Ideas" exercises following each of the *Reading Selections* ask students to make connections among readings in the text and to draw upon their own experiences.

Instructional Features

In this book, students read a careful explanation of a specific skill, followed by an analysis of how that skill applies to a particular passage. They then have a chance to test their mastery of that skill through the many exercises designed for practice and review. This step-by-step approach allows students to progress from simple to more complex skills with confidence.

To address the needs of college reading students, we included a number of other important pedagogical features:

- explanations of basic skills in clear, easy-to-understand language
- more than 120 ethnically diverse and challenging reading selections from many sources, including magazines, how-to books, advertisements, and newspapers, as well as textbooks and other academic material.
- comprehensive questions designed to enrich understanding and appreciation of selections while reinforcing key skills
- questions in the *Reading Selections* keyed to appropriate sections in the *Handbook*; if students have difficulty answering a question, they easily can find and review the material that covers that particular skill. For example, a (6) after a question means that a review of Chapter 6, "Making Inferences," will help the student recall the techniques readers use to infer important information from the text
- engaging photographs, tables, charts, graphs, cartoons, and crossword puzzles to stimulate and maintain student interest in visual aids
- sustained attention to the use of context clues
- chapters on literal comprehension, including reading aids, reading for the main idea, reading for information, and recognizing paragraph patterns
- a unit on the basic study skills—underlining, note-taking, outlining, summarizing, and taking exams
- an Appendix on using a dictionary

The organization of the book allows instructors to adapt it to specific courses in several ways. They may choose to teach the *Handbook* units in the early weeks of the term, postponing study of the *Reading Selections* until students master essential reading skills. The brief *Handbook* readings promote reinforcement of newly learned concepts and prepare students for

longer *Reading Selections*. Or instructors may choose to reinforce the skills taught in the *Handbook* by immediately assigning appropriate *Reading Selections*, turning to key instructional units in the *Handbook* as specific needs arise in class.

New to this Edition —

In this edition, we have added a number of new features:

- The reading selections represent a broader range of gender and multicultural issues than in the last edition. About one-third of the readings in both the *Handbook* and *Reading Selections* are new.
- A new chapter on how to take tests has been added (Chapter 14).
- The number of collaborative assignments has been increased.
- Additional exercises on vocabulary skills have been included.

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