

FOUR WORLDS OF WRITING

INQUIRY AND ACTION IN CONTEXT

Fourth Edition



Janice M. Lauer • Andrea Lunsford • Janet Atwill • Thomas Clemens
William Hart-Davidson • Debra Jacobs • Lisa Langstraat
Libby Miles • Tim Peeples • Nan Uber-Kellogg

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Fourth Edition

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Preface

INTERACTING WITH STUDENT WRITERS IN REAL CONTEXTS

In the fourth edition of *Four Worlds of Writing: Inquiry and Action in Context*, we again foreground students writing to inquire and to act in a real context. Although this book can be used in many ways, we demonstrate how teachers and students can INTERACT with the student writers in the text.

You can observe students making many choices throughout their writing processes.

You can study them as they:

1. engage in inquiry (reach new understanding) or critique
 - by raising questions in a writing context they choose
 - by exploring their question
 - by positioning themselves as writers
 - by setting positions for their readers
 - by trying different focuses (answers to their questions)
2. select their genre
3. plan an organization
4. draft
5. receive responses
6. plan revisions
7. revise

You will find students struggling, facing the results of their choices, and making changes. You can discuss their efforts.

The question foremost in these students' minds as they write is NOT "What does the teacher want?" But instead "What do my readers, my focus, context, and intended action call for?" Grading with this emphasis acknowledges whether or not you meet these expectations. You and your teachers are encouraged to work together to help you accomplish YOUR actions.

STUDENTS USING STRATEGIES

You can observe them using powerful strategies to guide different acts during their inquiry. Because each student works with strategies in his or her own way, you can notice how they adapt and modify guides to their own styles.

STUDENTS COLLABORATING IN GROUPS

We show students working in groups throughout their writing process, helping each other to make decisions, to change plans or drafts. You can decide whether the advice is helpful or not.

CLASSES STRESS INTERACTION WITH STUDENT EXAMPLES AND YOUR OWN WORK

Classes are shown centering around discussions of the students' work in the text and your work as you inquire, draft, respond and revise. One student's writing process is presented as a narrative reading at the beginning of each inquiry chapter.

COMPOSITION THEORY IN FOUR WORLDS OF WRITING, 4TH EDITION

The fourth edition of *Four Worlds of Writing: Inquiry and Action in Context*, is based on premises derived from rhetorical and composition theory:

- that writing is a way of learning or making knowledge
- that writing is action accomplishing something
- that every writing assignment is best done in actual contexts
- that meaningful writing grows from the writer's own pressing questions
- that learning to write in different worlds is important for every writer
- that students can use writing to examine the cultures which help form them
- that the composing process is a series of acts that can vary in sequence and are often recursive, even though they are ordered in certain ways in a text
- that choice of genre and organization are interdependent
- that stylistic choices vary with different contexts, genres, readers, and focuses
- that specific skills such as paragraph building and grammatical conventions are best developed within the framework of the whole writing process.

Throughout we have merged theory with all of our practical experience and that of college instructors who have developed, tested, and refined that theory in their classrooms.

NEW FEATURES IN THE FOURTH EDITION

More Co-Authors

Eight new authors join our team. Each has taught this pedagogy, as well as several others, over several years in different colleges, universities, and community colleges. Each one contributes one area-of-inquiry chapter based on his or her experience and selection of student work.

New Areas of Inquiry

Four of the seven areas of inquiry are new in this edition: Free Time, Local Cultures, Fields of Study, and Technology. Three continue: Relationships, Issues in Groups, and Workplace Problems.

New Student Work

All of the student work is new. Each chapter presents one student's "inquiry and action in context" as a narrative at the beginning of each chapter in part one. Many student writings pervade the second half of these chapters, which engage you in writing your own texts.

New and Revised Strategies

In Part I all the strategies have been revised. Many new strategies have been added, including the Genre Selection Strategy, Telling Stories, Noticing Packages, Listing Key Terms and Contrasting Terms, Ethnographic Research, Project Planning, and Document Design. In Part II, many new strategies have been added to those from the previous edition, to offer you a repertoire of guides as you write. Included there are guides for writing interpretations of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction, and for taking essay exams.

New Chapter on Collaboration

Based on recent work in the field, this chapter offers you many helps in working with others in groups. It also gives advice about how to deal with conflict.

New Chapter on Genre

In this chapter you will find a helpful explanation of the notion of genres and their importance for writing. Because this text encourages writers to select their genre, the chapter offers descriptions of frequently used genres in different worlds.

New Chapter on Inquiry, Writing, and Technology

This chapter illustrates specific ways in which you can use the internet when engaging in research.

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