



READINGS FOR WRITERS



FIFTH EDITION

JO RAY MCCUEN
ANTHONY C. WINKLER

Readings for Writers

FIFTH EDITION

JO RAY McCUEN
Glendale College

ANTHONY C. WINKLER



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PREFACE

Readings for Writers is an inclusive anthology with readings organized around a unique labeling system. As in all four previous editions, most chapters consist of the following:

- A *Model* selection—a short piece that serves as a model of excellence for the chapter topic. All chapters dealing with actual writing performance open with a model.
- An *Advice* selection—an article that offers practical advice on the chapter topic.
- *Discussion* selections—articles that further discuss the chapter topic.
- *Example* selections—a variety of examples that demonstrate mastery of the chapter topic.

To this Fifth Edition we have added two entirely new sections. First, we have included an *Issue* section, in which writers debate the merits of some controversial or thought-provoking topic. Nearly everyone writes better when the blood is boiling, and the issues dealt with in this section promise, in the words of the late baseball pitcher Satchel Paige, to “anger up the blood.” We preface each issue with a statement outlining the historical background and implicit disagreements, and then step back and let the debaters have their say. Ronald Reagan attacks abortion, while writer Linda Bird Francke defends it; neurologist Frederick A. King defends the use of live animals in laboratory experimentation, while animal rights activist Patricia Curtis condemns the practice as inhumane. Not all the issues, however, are so weighty; in one, Jane Brody sings the benefits of exercise, while newspaper columnist Mike Royko disdains the habit and extols Orson Welles as his exemplar of one who has truly lived the good life. Users of this edition will also find that our apparatus gives them the freedom to use and teach each “issue” article entirely on its own rather than in the context of a debate.

The second major addition to this Fifth Edition is a glossary. Many instructors have asked for one, and we have tried to include here those literary and rhetorical terms and phrases that the beginning student will find most useful. Our glossary defines 81 items, beginning with “abstract” and ending with “voice”; whenever possible we refer the student to the chapter in which the term occurs or is discussed.

In addition to its 33 new pieces, this Fifth Edition includes one that has been reinstated by popular request. “How to Say Nothing in Five Hundred Words,” Paul Roberts’ classic essay on the perennial problems of the freshman

theme, has been restored to the leadoff position it occupied in the first three editions. We have also rewritten the student research paper to reflect the Modern Language Association's parenthetical style of documentation, promulgated in the 1984 edition of the *MLA Handbook*.

This edition contains as diverse and spirited a collection of readings as ever. The 144 selections range from the computer-written campaign speech in Chapter 1 to the detached scientific analysis of the bloodstains on the Shroud of Turin in Chapter 12.

Our thanks to Don Barnett of the University of Georgia and George Kennedy of Washington State University for their perceptive reviews, in which they made many useful suggestions for making this edition better.

Jo Ray McCuen and Anthony C. Winkler

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