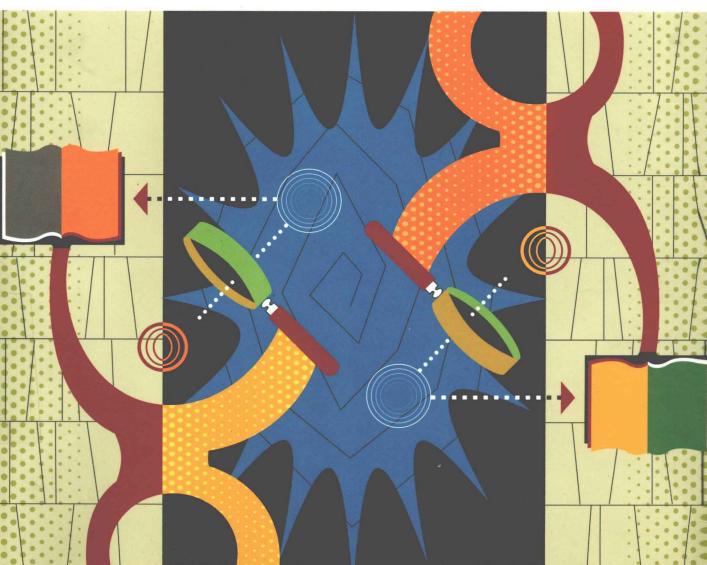
Writing, READING, & RESEARCH

RICHARD VEIT . CHRISTOPHER GOULD



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To the Instructor

Writing, Reading, and Research, Eighth Edition, reflects the assumption that the three activities in its title are central to a college education. Every college student must be able to access information and ideas, analyze and synthesize them, and communicate the resulting knowledge to others.

Moreover, writing, reading, and research are so closely and symbiotically related that they should be studied together. We believe that the research paper should not be seen (though it often is) as one among many isolated writing tasks, distinguished chiefly by its intricate search protocols and citation formats. Research, in the broader sense that we envision, includes activities both large and small. Every task involving sources is a research activity, whether it be reading a textbook, using a library, searching the Internet, asking questions, taking notes, or writing a summary analysis in response to an essay-exam question. A textbook, as we see it, should reflect this inclusive definition, engaging students in the rewards and excitement of research writing while preparing them to do it well.

It follows that students need to develop and refine the many skills involved in college research. Writing an essay based on library sources, for example, employs a wide range of skills that, in our experience, many first-year college students have not yet mastered. Most basic of all is active critical reading. Students need to employ efficient strategies to read with perception and understanding, to analyze and critique what they read, and to make productive use of the information and ideas that arise from their reading.

For these reasons, we believe that writing, reading, and research skills should be taught and practiced together. A composition course that prepares students for the tasks they will actually face during their college and professional careers can and should be a unified whole. That unity is the principle that informs this book.

Developing skills in writing, reading, and research is a process that can be divided into successive stages. We have attempted to take a common-sense approach to this process by introducing concepts sequentially. Although each chapter has its own integrity, each also builds on the concepts developed in preceding chapters.

In general, our book moves from simpler to more complex tasks—from working with a single source to connecting multiple sources, from comprehension to

analysis and critique, from paraphrase and summary to synthesis—before presenting the more advanced and creative aspects of writing, reading, and research.

We have pursued several specific goals in writing this book:

- Broadening the traditional notion of undergraduate research
- Presenting the process of research in a practical sequence
- Blending the best features of a theoretically informed rhetoric, an interdisciplinary reading anthology, and a research guide
- Creating a text that instructors will find serviceable as a teaching resource and that students will find lively, readable, and instructive as a guide to research writing
- Supplementing assignments with student responses, illustrating the processes that lead to a finished product
- Providing helpful and engaging exercises, frequent opportunities to write, and many occasions for discussion and critical response.

New to This Edition

The guided, sequential approach—always the hallmark of this textbook—remains intact in this edition, as does the abundance of examples, activities, and sample student papers. As always, however, we have tried to provide new tools and resources for students. In this edition, we have adopted and explained all the many changes in the latest MLA format for citing sources. We have also included more than a dozen new readings that provide flexible, contemporary resources for assignments, as well as six student samples. Introductions to writing, reading, and research, previously covered in Chapter 1, have been separated into two chapters. Chapter 4, "Reading for the Main Idea," contains a new section, "Questioning Implications," which fortifies coverage of strategies for critical thinking. Finally, a wealth of new exercises appears throughout the book to provide expanded opportunities for student practice.

Supplements

An extensive instructor's manual offers suggestions for using *Writing, Reading, and Research* in the classroom. It provides an overview of each chapter and suggested assignments, along with responses to the in-text exercises and the questions that follow the end-of-chapter readings.

Acknowledgments

Our greatest debt is to our students, from whom we have learned most of what we know about teaching composition. In particular, we wish to thank Tracy LaFon, Bob Tenant, and all the other student writers who shared their notes and experiences in this edition.

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RICHARD VEIT
CHRISTOPHER GOULD





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