

PREFACE

A Reader for College Writers is a brief yet comprehensive guide for students in first-year collegiate composition courses. The text, now in its eighth edition, retains its original purpose: to help students read carefully, respond thoughtfully, and use those responses as creative springboards for writing. As in the past, research continues to affirm the close relationship between analytical reading and effective writing. This textbook makes emphatic use of that connection.

NEW TO THE EIGHTH EDITION

Though the purpose of the text remains the introduction of rhetorical and linguistic principles to help students organize and develop college-level discourse, there is also additional material in appendix 1 to help students learn grammar, sentence structure, and other skills important to the editing process.

A second appendix includes a discussion of important skills and principles related to the writing of collegiate research papers using MLA (Modern Language Association) style. Coverage of the research paper ends with a full-length annotated student paper that illustrates all the basic principles and formats in the latest MLA style.

As such, *A Reader for College Writers* has now become an introduction to collegiate writing that includes a rhetoric, a reader, a grammar and editing manual, and a research guide.

MORE THAN EIGHTEEN NEW READING SELECTIONS

The essays and poems in the collection represent a range of cultural and academic interests and are enhanced in this edition by eighteen new major reading selections, as well as other shorter pieces. New to this edition are authors such as Sam Pickering, Gail Sheehy, Senator Bernie Sanders, Aldous Huxley, former attorney general Jeff Sessions, Walter Williams, Robert Reich, James Jeans, and Lawrence Reed. The two chapters on argumentation and persuasion contain contemporary essays offering opposing views on important controversial issues: sanctuary cities and raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

PROVEN FEATURES OF *A READER FOR COLLEGE WRITERS*

FOCUS ON CRITICAL READING AND WRITING

The introductory section, *Getting Started*, introduces the fundamentals of analytical reading and collegiate writing by stressing that reading and writing are processes and that there is a natural connection between the two. Moreover, the pedagogy in each chapter introduction and accompanying each reading selection shows students how to exploit this connection. Several sample student essays, which illustrate techniques for analysis, annotation, summary, and synthesis, appear in *Getting Started*. Another student piece in *Getting Started* illustrates the writing process step-by-step through note taking, outlining, drafting, revision, and editing. Finally, a sample student paper, annotated with notes that help students introduce, cite, and document their research, caps off the research-paper discussion in appendix 2.

ROBUST SUPPORT FOR READING SELECTIONS

Each reading selection is prefaced by an author biography, by questions and comments under “Preparing to Read,” and by a vocabulary section. Each of these features provides a context for reading and reinforces the notion that critical reading—like writing—is a process. Each reading selection is followed by suggested websites for further reading, questions for discussion, items for thinking critically, and suggestions for journal entries, all of which

help students understand the reading and draw inspiration from it for their own writing. In addition, the responses students make to the suggestions for journal entries can double as prewriting for the formal, sustained essays they create in response to the suggestions for sustained writing, which appear at the end of each chapter.

EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF ARGUMENT AND PERSUASION

In addition to complete coverage of traditional methods of argumentation and persuasion, the two chapters in section 5 discuss both Toulmin and Rogerian argument. Paired readings on contemporary controversial issues appear in chapters 12 and 13 in that section.

INCLUSION OF STUDENT WRITING

Every chapter contains at least one student essay, with excerpts of the student's rough and final drafts compared in the chapter's introduction. Many students using this book have welcomed this side-by-side analysis because it convinces them that the only way to produce successful academic prose is through a meticulous process that includes careful revision and editing. These selections also serve as inspiration by encouraging current users of the text to produce the best writing they can. Indeed, some even express the hope that their writing might appear in a future edition of the text.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS REGARDING THE EDITING AND RESEARCH PROCESSES

As noted earlier, the text now offers coverage of major grammatical, sentence structure, and other editing concerns, as well as a full introduction to research paper writing using MLA style. This appendix includes an annotated student research paper that students can use as a model of excellence. Although this added material is new to the text, it has been classroom tested by the author and several of his colleagues in college classrooms. As a result of the addition of these two features to the eighth edition, students need purchase no other text to become proficient in freshman writing.

Acknowledgments

I sincerely appreciate the comments and suggestions from my colleagues across the country who have reviewed this text ever since its inception. Among my colleagues and friends at Middlesex County College, I would like to thank Barry Glazer, James Keller, Yvonne Sisko, Renee Price, Helena Swanicke, and Shirley Wachtel for their support and loyalty. I would also like to thank the many students who contributed their work for presentation in this text; I have learned so much from them. I would also like to thank the editors and staff at BVT Publishing—Janai Escobedo, Jade Elk, Stephanie Elliott, Teresa Daly, and Tara Joffe—for their patience, their outstanding support and guidance, and their confidence in me and my work. Finally, I want to thank my family—Elaine, Pamela, Matthew, and Molly—for supporting and encouraging their “Paka” in whatever work he engages.

Supplements and Resources

INSTRUCTOR SUPPLEMENTS

A complete teaching package is available for instructors who adopt this book. This package includes an **online lab**, **instructor's manual**, **PowerPoint™ slides**, and **chapter exercises**.

Online Lab	BVT's online lab is available for this textbook on two different platforms—BVT <i>Lab</i> (at www.BVTLab.com), and LAB BOOK™ (at www.BVTLabBook.com). These are described in more detail in the corresponding sections below. Both platforms allow instructors to set up graded homework, quizzes, and exams.
Instructor's Manual	The Instructor's Manual helps first-time instructors develop the course, while also offering seasoned instructors a new perspective on the materials. Each section of the Instructor's Manual coincides with a chapter in the textbook. The conversational format begins with a brief description of the chapter and a broad lecture overview. Key terms and definitions are then defined. Finally, the manual presents answers and suggested responses for the questions for each reading in the chapter.
PowerPoint Slides	A set of PowerPoint slides includes about thirty slides per chapter, including a chapter overview, learning objectives, slides covering all key topics, key figures and charts, and summary and conclusion slides.
Chapter Exercises	Downloadable exercises are available for each chapter. These exercises provide valuable application of the important grammatical and structural concepts presented throughout the book.

STUDENT RESOURCES

Student resources are available for this textbook on both the BVT*Lab* platform and the LAB BOOK platform, as described below. These resources are geared toward students needing additional assistance, as well as those seeking complete mastery of the content. The following resources are available:

Flashcards	BVT <i>Lab</i> includes sets of flashcards that reinforce the key terms and concepts from each chapter.
PowerPoint Slides	For a study recap, students can view all of the instructor PowerPoint slides online.
Additional LAB BOOK Resources	The LAB BOOK platform offers detailed section summaries developed by the author. Study tools such as text highlighting and margin notes are also available. These resources are not available in BVT <i>Lab</i> .

BVTLab

BVTLab is an affordable online lab for instructors and their students. It includes an online classroom with grade book and class forum, a homework grading system, and a host of student study resources.

Course Setup	BVTLab has an easy-to-use, intuitive interface that allows instructors to quickly set up their courses and replicate them from section to section and semester to semester.
Class Forum	Instructors can post discussion threads to a class forum and then monitor and moderate student replies.
Student Resources	All student resources for this textbook are available in digital form within BVTLab. Even if a class is not taught in the lab, students who have purchased lab access can still use the student resources in the lab.
eBook	BVTLab includes both a webBook™ and a downloadable eBook (on the Vital-Source® platform). For some product bundles, BVT's LAB BOOK can also be accessed from within BVTLab, offering enhanced eBook features and study tools for students, as described below.

LAB BOOK

LAB BOOK is a web-based eBook platform with an integrated lab providing comprehension tools and interactive student resources. Instructors can build homework and quizzes right into the eBook. LAB BOOK is either included with eBook^{Plus} or offered as a stand-alone product.

Course Setup	LAB BOOK uses the BVTLab interface to allow instructors to set up their courses and to replicate them from section to section and semester to semester.
Advanced eBook	LAB BOOK is a mobile-friendly, web-based eBook platform designed for PCs, Macs, tablets, and smartphones. LAB BOOK allows highlighting, margin notes, and a host of other study tools.
Student Resources	All student resources for this textbook are available in the LAB BOOK, as described in the “Student Resources” section above.

CUSTOMIZATION

BVT's Custom Publishing Division can help you modify this book's content to satisfy your specific instructional needs. The following are examples of customization:

- Rearrangement of chapters to follow the order of your syllabus
- Deletion of chapters not covered in your course
- Addition of paragraphs, sections, or chapters you or your colleagues have written for this course
- Editing of the existing content, down to the word level
- Customization of the accompanying student resources and online lab
- Addition of handouts, lecture notes, syllabus, and so forth
- Incorporation of student worksheets into the textbook

All of these customizations will be professionally typeset to produce a seamless textbook of the highest quality, with an updated table of contents and index to reflect the customized content.