

# Resources in the Teaching of Composition

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## The Composing Process

Central to current theories about writing is a belief that student writing needs to be helped during the process rather than simply to be judged by the product. Since Janet Emig's ground-breaking case study in 1971, studies of the composing process have been conducted by numerous researchers and the results made available in professional journals and meetings. The following is a select checklist of past studies which offer some insights into what our students go through when they write and how we might help them.

**Beach, Richard**, "Self-Evaluation Strategies of Extensive Revisers and Non-Revisers," *College Composition and Communication*, 27 (May, 1976), 160-164.

**Davis, Vivian**, "Toward a Model of the Composing Process," *Arizona English Bulletin*, 19 (October, 1976), 13-16.

**Emig, Janet**, "The Biology of Writing: Another View of the Process," in *The Writing Processes of Students*, (Ed.) Walter T. Petty, ERIC ED 165-155.

\_\_\_\_\_, *The Composing Processes of Twelfth Graders* Urbana, IL: NCTE, 1971.

\_\_\_\_\_, "Hand, Eye, Brain: Some 'Basics' in the Composing Process," in *Research on Composing*, (Ed.) Charles R. Cooper & Lee Odell, Urbana, IL: NCTE, 1978

**Flower, Linda S., and John R. Hayes**, "Problem-Solving Strategies and the Writing Process," *College English*, 39 (December, 1977), 449-461.

**Graves, Donald H.** "An Examination of the Writing Processes of Seven-Year-Old Children," *Research in the Teaching of English*, 9 (Winter, 1975), 227-241.

**Graves, Richard L.**, "Levels of Skill in the Composing Process," *College Composition and Communication*, 29 (October, 1978), 227-232.

**Perl, Sondra**, "The Composing Processes of Unskilled College Writers," *Research in the Teaching of English*, 13 (December, 1979), 317-336.

**Pianko, Sharon**, "A Description of the Composing Processes of College Freshman Writers," *Research in the Teaching of English*, 13 (February, 1979), 5-22.

## Reviewing Recent Publications

Professional journals continue to provide lively debate over issues in composition teaching even as they keep us up-to-

date on research into writing. The following list selects articles easily accessible to most of us dealing with issues pertinent to the teaching of writing. Many of the issues have appeared on the pages of *forum*; these articles serve primarily as touch-stones — other articles of interest can also be found along with these.

## Articles on Composing

**Knoblauch, C.H.** "Intentionality in the Writing Process: A Case Study," *CCC*, 31 (May, 1980), 153-159.

**Perl, Sondra**, "Understanding Composing," *CCC*, 31 (December, 1980), 363-369.

**Rose, Mike**, "Rigid Rules, Inflexible Plans, and the Stifling of Language: A Cognitivist Analysis of Writer's Block," *CCC*, 31 (December, 1980), 389-399.

**Sommers, Nancy**, "Revision Strategies of Student Writers and Experienced Adult Writers," *CCC*, 31 (December, 1980), 378-388.

**Sullivan, Patricia A.** "Teaching the Writing Process in Scientific and Technical Writing Classes," *The Technical Writing Teacher*, 8 (Fall, 1980) 10-16.

## Articles on Writing Across the Curriculum

*The Forum for Liberal Education*. 3 (April 1981), 6.  
The issue is devoted to "Comprehensive Writing Programs" and includes an article by Harvey Wiener, "Administering Comprehensive Writing Programs Within Liberal Education," and descriptions of interdisciplinary writing programs around the country, including the programs at the University of Michigan and Michigan Tech.

"Forum. Writing Across the Curriculum," *WPA: Writing Program Administration*, 4 (Spring, 1981), 3, pp. 9-22.

**Fulwiler, Toby**, "Journals Across the Disciplines," *English Journal*, 69 (December, 1980), 9, pp. 14-19.

\_\_\_\_\_, "Showing, Not Telling, at a Writing Workshop," *College English*, 43 (January 1981), 55-63.

**Herrington, Anne J.**, "Writing to Learn: Writing Across the Disciplines," *College English*, 43 (April, 1981), 379-388.

## Articles on Evaluation

**Elridge, Richard**, "Grading in the 70s: How We Changed," *College English*, 43 (January, 1981), 64-68.

**Gere, Anne Ruggles**, "Written Composition: Toward a Theory of Evaluation," *College English*, 42 (September, 1980), 44-58.

**Odell, Lee & Charles R. Cooper**, "Procedures for Evaluating Writing: Assumptions and Needed Research," *College English*, 42 (September, 1980), 35-43.

#### Articles on Tests

**Bell, Barbara Currier**, "Choosing a Reference Book for Writing," *CCC*, 32 (February, 1981), 38-46.

**Dowie, William**, "Rating Your Rhetoric Text," *CCC*, 32 (February, 1981), 47-56.

**Rose, Mike**, "Sophisticated, Ineffective Books — The Dismantling of Process in Composition Texts," *CCC*, 32 (February, 1981), 65-74.

**Woods, William F.** "Composition Textbooks and Pedagogical Theory 1960-80: A Review-essay," *College English*, 43 (April, 1981), 393-409.

#### Articles on Pedagogy

"Forum, Faculty Development in Composition," *WPA: Writing Program Administration*, 4 (Winter, 1980), 2, pp. 7-22.

*Excerpts from three papers on the subject and two complete papers, "Faculty Indifference to Writing: A Pessimistic View" by Richard Marius and "Faculty Development Through Professional Collaboration" by Robert Lyons.*

**Gebhardt, Richard**, "Teamwork and Feedback: Broadening the Base of Collaborative Writing," *College English*, 42 (September, 1980), 69-74.

**Jenkins, Cheryl Sandford**, "The Writing Assignment: An Obstacle or Vehicle?" *English Journal*, 69 (December, 1980), 9, pp. 66-69.

**Kantor, Kenneth J.** "Research in Composition: What It Means for Teachers," *English Journal*, 70 (February, 1981), 2, pp. 64-67.

**Schiff, Peter M.** "But They Make Me Use That Grammar Text!" *English Journal*, 69 (December, 1980), 9, pp. 23-25.

**Ylvisaker, Miriam**, "Writing Workshop: A Fantasy at Reality Level," *English Journal*, 69 (December, 1980), 9, pp. 70-75.