CONTENTS

THEMATIC CONTENTS xvii PREFACE xxiii

CHAPTER 1

On Writing 1

Jennifer Lee | *I Think, Therefore IM* 15 A journalist and author explains how text messaging, Weblogs, and e-mail are changing the ways students write—and driving some teachers to distraction.

John Grisham | **Boxers, Briefs, and Books** 22 The best-selling author tells of the various odd jobs and adventures he had on the way to a successful writing career.

William Zinsser | *Simplicity* 29 According to this writer-teacher, "clutter is the disease of American writing." We must, Zinsser declares, simplify.

Amy Tan | *Mother Tongue* (Mixing Patterns) 39

Novelist Amy Tan explains how her writing style achieved both passion and simplicity when she learned to value the criticism of her mother, who said after reading her daughter's novel, "So easy to read."

Summing Up: Chapter 151From Seeing to Writing52

On Reading 53

Judith Ortiz Cofer | Volar 66

A Latina writer recalls how reading helped her overcome her childhood circumstances.

Malcolm X | Prison Studies 72

"Reading had changed forever the course of my life," writes Malcolm X, who explains movingly how reading is both an activity of love and a tool of power.



***** Eudora Welty | One Writer's Beginnings (Mixing Patterns) 81

One of America's best fiction writers reveals a long-standing love affair—with books! "Long before I wrote stories," she says, "I listened for stories."

***** Anna Quindlen | *Turning the Page* (Mixing Patterns) 92

An acclaimed essavist and novelist declares that the future of reading is backlit and bright.

Summing Up: Chapter 2 98 From Seeing to Writing 99

CHAPTER 3

Description 100

Barry Lopez | Apologia 105 Lopez brings the eye of a naturalist and the soul of a humanist to a driving trip along the western roads of America.

Annie Dillard | In the Jungle 114

An acclaimed nature writer discovers in the Ecuadorian jungle the depths of experience that can be found in "the middle of nowhere."

Maxine Hong Kingston | Catfish in the Bathtub 123 Squirming turtles, swimming catfish, pungent skunks, city pigeons: Why did Kingston's mother bring the culture of China to their California kitchen?

Contents

***** Suzanne Berne | My Ticket to the Disaster

(Mixing Patterns) 130

A novelist evokes a puzzling and emotional visit to the site of the destroyed World Trade towers.

Summing Up: Chapter 3 137 From Seeing to Writing 138

CHAPTER 4

Narration 139

Elizabeth Wong | The Struggle to Be an All-American Girl 144

In a narrative of her youth, a writer remembers her efforts to obtain "a cultural divorce" from the heritage into which she was born.

Langston Hughes | Salvation 152

One of America's foremost poets tells of his childhood disillusionment as he struggled desperately to see Jesus.

Andrew Lam | Waterloo 159

This Vietnamese-American short story writer and journalist visits a famous European battlefield, triggering thoughts about his family's fate.

K George Orwell | A Hanging (Mixing Patterns) 167

The renowned author of Animal Farm and 1984 discovers how precious human life is as he tells of witnessing an execution in Burma. "It is curious," he recalls, "but till that moment I had never realized what it means to destroy a healthy, conscious man."

179 Summing Up: Chapter 4 From Seeing to Writing 180

CHAPTER 5

Process Analysis 181

Mark A. Shiffrin and Avi Silberschatz Thumbs on the Wheel 185

The writers have a number of ideas to prevent a major problem on the road: using a cellphone while driving.

Nora Ephron*How to Foil a Terrorist Plot in Seven*Simple Steps190

A popular essayist, novelist, and screenwriter offers a hilarious spoof on our preoccupation with terrorism and terrorists.

Ernest Hemingway | *Camping Out* 195

Avoiding insects. Getting a good rest. Cooking trout just right. This essay can make anyone's next camping trip a success.

Henry Louis Gates Jr. | In the Kitchen (Mixing Patterns) 203

A prolific writer and winner of a 1989 National Book Award explores the politics of the hairdo by recalling his experiences as a child in his mother's home beauty parlor.

Summing Up: Chapter 5214From Seeing to Writing215

CHAPTER 6

Illustration 216

Brent Staples | Night Walker 220

An avid "night walker" explains how his seemingly innocent habit has turned him into "an accomplice in tyranny."

Barbara Ehrenreich | What I've Learned from Men 228

The feminist social critic discovers that there is something useful to be learned from men after all: how to be tough.

Eleanor J. Bader | Homeless on Campus 237

"Advocates for the homeless report countless examples of students sleeping in their cars and sneaking into a school gym to shower and change clothes."

Jared Diamond | Globalization Rocked the Ancient World Too (Mixing Patterns) 245

Globalization, Diamond claims, is nothing new: Early farmers carried their genes, foods, technologies, cultures, and languages around the world.

Summing Up: Chapter 6253From Seeing to Writing254

CHAPTER 7

Comparison and Contrast 255

Rachel Carson | *A Fable for Tomorrow* 260 One of America's most celebrated naturalists warns us of the future in a grim contrast between a flourishing environment and a destroyed landscape plagued by a mysterious curse.

Dave Barry | *Punch and Judy* 267 *The newspaper humorist takes a close look at the war of the sexes*

and isn't quite sure which side he should be on.

Michele Ingrassia | *The Body of the Beholder* 273 *This writer focuses on a study that discovered why white girls dislike their bodies, but black girls are proud of theirs.*

Deborah Tannen | Mom's Unforgiving Mirror (Mixing Patterns) 280

A prominent professor of linguistics who frequently writes on gender issues reflects on the reasons her mother constantly focuses on her daughter's slight imperfections.

Summing Up: Chapter 7287From Seeing to Writing288

CHAPTER 8

Cause-and-Effect Analysis 289

Stephen King | *Why We Crave Horror Movies* 294 The acknowledged master of horror shares his thoughts on why people love to be frightened.

Elie Wiesel | The America I Love 300 Holocaust survivor, author, and Nobel Peace Prize-winner Elie Wiesel explains what prompted him to become an American citizen more than forty years ago and how he feels about his adopted country today.

Bob Herbert | *Tweet Less, Kiss More* (Mixing Patterns) 307 A columnist asks why we are so obsessed with our e-mail, cellphones, Kindles, and iPads.

xiv

Katha Pollitt | Why Boys Don't Play with Dolls (Mixing Patterns) 314

This well-known feminist analyzes the disconnect between the two sexes.

Summing Up: Chapter 8321From Seeing to Writing322

CHAPTER 9

Classification 323

Akbar Ahmed | *Mystics, Modernists, and Literalists* 328 Ahmed believes that we cannot understand the Muslim people until we understand these classifications and what they mean for the members of each group.

Jedediah Purdy | *Shades of Green* 334 *A law professor takes a critical look at "several environmentalisms."*

Amy RashapThe American Dream for Sale: Ethnic Imagesin Magazines342

This writer claims that advertisements and other images in American magazines classify ethnic groups on the basis of prevailing stereotypes.

★ James T. Baker | How Do We Find the Student in a World of Academic Gymnasts and Worker Ants? (Mixing Patterns) 354 This gently satirical essay introduces a dozen student types that everyone knows and loves—among others, the performer, the jock, the lost soul, the worker ant, and finally, the student.

Summing Up: Chapter 9363From Seeing to Writing364

CHAPTER 10

Definition 365

Dagoberto Gilb | Pride 370

The popular Chicano writer takes a poetic approach to explaining how a common but complicated human emotion manifests itself in the deserts of Texas. **Thomas L. Friedman** | *Generation Q* 376

Celebrated New York Times *contributor and best-selling author Thomas Friedman takes pride in the current generation of college students.*

Karen Armstrong | Fundamentalism Is Here to Stay (Mixing Patterns) 383

Fundamentalism, declares this acclaimed writer on religion, is "essentially a revolt against modern secular society."

Gloria Naylor | A Word's Meaning (Mixing Patterns) 392 Novelist and short fiction writer Gloria Naylor asserts that the meaning of a word goes beyond the dictionary—especially when it is the N-word.

Summing Up: Chapter 10401From Seeing to Writing402

CHAPTER 11

Argumentation and Persuasion 403

Arguments Pro and Con Facebook: Friend or Foe? 410

John Lemuel | *Why I Registered on Facebook* 412 A college professor fights his own inhibitions and joins the popular online social networking site.

Ryan SingelFacebook's Gone Rogue; It's Time for an OpenAlternative421

A full-time blogger complains about Facebook's betrayal of its members.

Perspectives on Ethnicity: Who Are We, and How Are We Formed? 430

John Edgar Wideman | *The Seat Not Taken* 431 A constantly empty seat beside him on regular train trips forces this writer to draw unpleasant conclusions.

Manuel Muñoz | Leave Your Name at the Border (Mixing Patterns) 437

This short story writer argues that different people and groups respond to his name—and the author himself—from clashing perspectives.

Richard Rodriguez | *The Great Wall of America* (Mixing Patterns) 445

A well-known writer on race and ethnicity argues that protective barriers do not make a nation safe.

Ronald Takaki | *The Harmful Myth of Asian Superiority* (Mixing Patterns) 452

A leading scholar argues that not only is the idea of uniform Asian American superiority a myth, but a myth that often veils racist sentiment directed at other groups.

Perspectives on Rights and Responsibilities: Are We Truly Free? 458

Molly Ivins | *Get a Knife, Get a Dog, but Get Rid of Guns* 460 A witty, sharp-tongued columnist and political critic argues that the Bill of Rights ought not to protect "gun nuts."

Martin Luther King Jr. | I Have a Dream 466

In one of the great pieces of American oratory, King argues logically, emotionally, and ethically for equality of the races.

Susan Cheever | Baby Battle (Mixing Patterns) 475

A well-known novelist and nonfiction writer declares, "There is a war going on in the streets of New York City" between the Stayat-Home Mothers and their adversaries, the Working Mothers and Women Without Children.

Summing Up: Chapter 11 485 From Seeing to Writing 486 APPENDIX: A GUIDE TO RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION A-1 What Are Research and Documentation? A-1 The Research Process A-2 *Phase I: Choosing and Limiting a Topic* A-3 Phase II: Gathering and Organizing Material A-6 *Phase III: Writing the Paper* A-13 *Phase IV: Documenting Sources* A-17 Sample Student Research Paper A-25 GLOSSARY G-1 CREDITS C-1 INDEX OF AUTHORS AND TITLES I-1