

Preface

75 Readings Plus is an expanded version of *75 Readings*, the popular and inexpensive collection of essays for first-year composition that was first published in 1987 and is now in its twelfth edition. The tables of contents of the two texts are identical, but the presentation of instructional materials differs.

Questions for discussion, suggestions for writing, and other instructional apparatus for *75 Readings* are presented in an online manual from which professors may copy materials for students as needed. In *75 Readings Plus*, on the other hand, instructional materials appear in the text. Accompanying each selection are an author biography, a set of discussion questions on content and strategy, and three suggestions for sustained writing, the last of which calls for research. In addition, in order to help instructors exploit the connection among reading, writing, and critical thinking, *75 Readings Plus* again offers a set of prompts for short writing that are inspired by each essay selection and used as journal assignments or as warm-up exercises for projects such as those described in the Suggestions for Sustained Writing. In some cases, they can even be expanded into assignments for complete essays.

For instructors who like the selections but who do not organize their classes around rhetorical modes, we have included two alternate tables of contents, which arrange selections by themes and genres. As with previous editions, we have sought the advice of many colleagues across the nation to determine changes that would make this book even more effective and appealing as a learning tool for college readers and writers. Many of these professionals have put both the new and the old selections in this book to the ultimate test by using them in their classrooms. They have also provided helpful suggestions that have enabled us to fashion a new table of contents that makes *75 Readings Plus* both versatile and representative of contemporary American culture.

CHANGES IN THE TENTH EDITION

Based on reviewers' suggestions, we have included the following:

- More essays on contemporary technology; food production, distribution, and use; and cultural identity in America.

- New readings that add depth and diversity and that pique student interest:

Louise Erdrich: *Beneath My House*

Peter Elbow: *Desperation Writing*

Richard Rodriguez: *“Blaxicans” and Other Reinvented Americans*

Brandon Griggs: *12 Most Annoying Types of Facebookers*

Gary Soto: *Like Mexicans*

Maxine Hong Kingston: *Family Ghosts*

Carlo Petrini: *The Value and Price of Food*

Rebecca Brown: *Extreme Reading*

Janet Kornblum: *Tapping into Text Messaging*

Michael Rubinkam: *Texting in Class Is Rampant*

Jonathan Safran Foer: *Let Them Eat Dog*

Sherman Alexie: *Superman and Me*

As before, *75 Readings Plus* contains an eleventh chapter, which includes essays worth teaching because of the effective mix of rhetorical strategies 5 they use.

SUPPLEMENTS

75 Readings offers many additional resources to Students and Instructors at: www.mhhe.com/75readings.

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*Santi Buscemi
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