

BACK TO THE LAKE

A READER
AND GUIDE

Thomas
Cooley

THIRD EDITION

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Contents

Preface v

Guides to the Readings by Theme and Academic Genre xxiii, xxxi

1 Good Writers Are Good Readers 1

Reading Closely—and Critically 2 / The Reading Process 2 / Reading Visual Texts 6

ANNA QUINDLEN, *How Reading Changed My Life* 8

"There are only two ways, really, to become a writer. One is to write. The other is to read."

Reading the Essays in This Book 10

2 Putting in Your Oar 13

Finding Out What's Been Said about Your Topic 14 / Synthesizing Ideas 15 /
Presenting Your Ideas as a Response to Those of Others 16 / Considering Other
Views 18 / Saying Why Your Ideas Matter 19 / Using the Methods 20

• CAROLYN STONEHILL, *Modern Dating, Prehistoric Style* 20

3 Using the Methods in Academic Writing 27

Narration 28 / Description 30 / Examples 31 / Process Analysis 33 /
Comparison and Contrast 34 / Classification 36 / Definition 37 /
Cause and Effect 38 / Argument 40

4 The Writing Process 43

Planning 44 / Thinking about Purpose and Audience 46 / Collaborating
with Others 48 / Generating Ideas 51 / Organizing and Drafting 56 /
The Parts of an Essay 60 / Revising 62

• ZOE SHEWER, *Ready, Willing, and Able* 64

Editing and Proofreading 71

5 Writing Paragraphs 75

Supporting the Main Point 76 / Developing Paragraphs 80 / Introductory
Paragraphs 86 / Body Paragraphs 89 / Concluding Paragraphs 91

• Student writing

6 Narration 93

Telling What Happened 94

Why Do We Write Narratives? 96

Composing a Narrative 98

Purpose and Audience / Generating Ideas / Organizing and Drafting / Templates

Editing for Common Errors in Narrative Writing 108

Reading a Narrative with a Critical Eye 109

* JEFF GREMMELS, *The Clinic* 110

EVERYDAY NARRATION / A Vanity License Plate 116

KURT STREETER, *Have a Caltastic Day!* 119

"I can do this! I can do this!" he had written . . . This is the story of Kashawn Campbell's freshman year."

MARJANE SATRAPI, *Kim Wilde* 129

"I put my 1983 Nikes on . . . and my denim jacket with the Michael Jackson button, and of course, my headscarf."

ANNIE DILLARD, *An American Childhood* 141

"If . . . the driver of the black Buick had cut off our heads, . . . I would have died happy, for nothing has required so much of me since as being chased all over Pittsburgh . . . by this sainted, skinny, furious red-headed man who wished to have a word with us."

DREW HANSEN, *"Tell Them about the Dream, Martin!"* 147

"King finished at about four in the morning and handed the manuscript to his aides so it could be typed up and distributed to the press. The speech did not include the words 'I have a dream.'"

ANNE BERNAYS, *Warrior Day* 153

"Someone asked Dave why his dog tag was on the tongue of his boot, under the laces. He said, 'You don't want to know.'"

RICHARD RUSSO, *Dog* 157

"Her idea was to make the dog conditional. The conditions to be imposed would be numerous and severe, and I would be incapable of fulfilling them, so when I didn't get the dog it'd be my own fault. This was her logic, and the fact that she thought such a plan might work illustrates that some people should never be parents."

7 Description 165

Telling How Something Looks, Sounds, Feels, Smells, or Tastes 166

Why Do We Describe? 167

Composing a Description 167

Purpose and Audience / Generating Ideas / Organizing and Drafting / Templates

Editing for Common Errors in Descriptions 179

Reading a Description with a Critical Eye 181

• MELISSA HICKS, *The High Price of Butter* 182

EVERYDAY DESCRIPTION / A Facebook Post 194

JUDITH ORTIZ COFER, *More Room* 197

"As each of their eight children were born, new rooms were added. After a few years, the paint didn't exactly match, nor the materials, so there was a chronology to it, like the rings of a tree."

PAUL CRENSHAW, *Storm Country* 203

"Sometimes it will stop raining when the funnel falls. Sometimes the wind stops and the trees go still and the air settles on you as everything goes quiet."

MICHAEL J. MOONEY, *The Most Amazing Bowling Story Ever* 209

"All you have to do is say the words 'That Night' and everyone at the Plano Super Bowl knows what you're talking about."

E. B. WHITE, *Once More to the Lake* 219

"I felt the same damp moss covering the worms in the bait can, and saw the dragonfly alight on the tip of my rod as it hovered a few inches from the surface of the water. It was the arrival of this fly that convinced me beyond any doubt that everything was as it always had been, that the years were a mirage and that there had been no years."

RITA DOVE, *American Smooth* 227

"We were dancing—it must have / been a foxtrot or a waltz, / something romantic but / requiring restraint"

8 Example 231

Giving a "For Instance" 232

Why Do We Cite Examples? 233

Composing an Essay That Uses Examples 233

Purpose and Audience / Generating Ideas / Organizing and Drafting / Templates

Editing for Common Errors in Examples 240

Reading an Essay Based on Examples with a Critical Eye 241

• STEPHANIE CAWLEY, *The Veil in Persepolis* 242

EVERYDAY EXAMPLE / BBQ Menu and Escaped Piglet 250

VERENA DOBNIK, *This Little Piggy Didn't Go to Market* 253

"Winston escaped death to find a piglet's paradise."

THE ONION, *All Seven Deadly Sins Committed at Church Bake Sale* 257

"In total, 347 individual acts of sin were committed at the bake sale, with nearly every attendee committing at least one of the seven deadly sins as outlined by Gregory the Great in the fifth century."

MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE, *Texas Talk Is Losing Its Twang* 261

"'What does a Texas ghost say?' That would be 'boo,' with the vowel sounding like the 'oo' in 'goose.' At least if the ghost talks like an old-time Texan."

LAUREL THATCHER ULRICH, *Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History* 267

"My runaway sentence now keeps company with anarchists, hedonists, would-be witches, political activists of many descriptions, and quite a few well-behaved women."

ALAN LIGHTMAN, *14 May 1905* 277

"There is a place where time stands still. Raindrops hang motionless in air. Pendulums of clocks float mid-swing."

9 Process Analysis 281

Telling How or How To 282

Why Do We Analyze Processes? 282

Composing a Process Analysis 285

Purpose and Audience / Generating Ideas / Organizing and Drafting / Templates

Editing for Common Errors in a Process Analysis 293

Reading a Process Analysis with a Critical Eye 294

• CAITLIN GHEGAN, *In Defense of Quidditch* 296

EVERYDAY PROCESS / How to Cross the Street 304

JOSHUA PIVEN, DAVID BORGENICHT, AND JENNIFER WORICK,

How to Pull an All-Nighter 307

"Do not stay up with someone you know will distract you with either idle chatter or sexual tension."

ALEX HORTON, *On Getting By: Advice for College-Bound Vets* 311

"I guarantee you've done something harder than a five-page essay."

DAVE BARRY, *How to Jump-start Your Car When the Battery Is Dead* 317

"When you drive, be alert for further signs of trouble, such as a flickering of your headlights, which is an indication of a problem in your electrical system; or a collision with a building, which is an indication that you forgot to put the hood back down."

CHARLES DUHIGG, *How to Create New Habits* 321

"The company had spent millions of dollars developing a spray that could remove bad smells from almost any fabric. And the researchers in that tiny, windowless room had no idea how to get people to buy it."

BILLY COLLINS, *Fishing on the Susquehanna in July* 331

"I have never been fishing on the Susquehanna / or on any river for that matter / to be perfectly honest."

10 Comparison and Contrast 335

Finding Similarities and Differences 336

Why Do We Compare? 338

Composing an Essay That Compares and Contrasts 339
Purpose and Audience / Generating Ideas / Organizing and Drafting / Templates

Editing for Common Errors in Comparisons 347

Reading a Comparison with a Critical Eye 348

• JAMIE GULLEN, *The Danish Way of Life* 349

EVERYDAY COMPARISON / A Souvenir Coffee Mug 354

PATRICIA PARK, *Where Are You From?* 357

"Despite the fact that I recited the pledge of allegiance at school each morning, despite my blue U.S. passport, I never self-identified as American while growing up; it had never occurred to me that I was."

DOUGLAS WOLK, *Superhero Smackdown* 361

"At a tender age, most fans of superhero comics start honing their arguments in an ancient debate: 'Which is better—Marvel or DC?'"

DAVID SEDARIS, *Remembering My Childhood on the Continent of Africa* 369

"Certain events are parallel, but compared with Hugh's, my childhood was unspeakably dull. When I was seven years old, my family moved to North Carolina. When he was seven years old, Hugh's family moved to the Congo."

BRUCE CATTON, *Grant and Lee* 377

"They were two strong men, these oddly different generals, and they represented the strengths of two conflicting currents that . . . had come into final collision."

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, *Sonnet 130* 383

"My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun"

11 Classification 387

Breaking a Subject into Categories 388

Why Do We Classify? 388

Composing an Essay That Uses Classification 390

Purpose and Audience / Generating Ideas / Organizing and Drafting / Templates

Editing for Common Errors in a Classification 398

Reading a Classification with a Critical Eye 399

• MICHELLE WATSON, *Shades of Character* 400

EVERYDAY CLASSIFICATION / A Classic Movie Poster 406

STEPHANIE ERICSSON, *The Ways We Lie* 409

"I once tried going a whole week without telling a lie, and it was paralyzing. I discovered that telling the truth all the time is nearly impossible."

AMY TAN, *Mother Tongue* 419

"Language is the tool of my trade. And I use them all—all the Englishes I grew up with."

MINDY KALING, *Women in Romantic Comedies Who Are Not Real* 427

"I . . . regard romantic comedies as a subgenre of sci-fi, in which the world . . . has different rules than my regular human world. . . . this world there are many specimens of women who . . . do not . . . exist in real life, like Vulcans or UFO people or whatever."

PAUL KRUGMAN, *E Pluribus Unum* 433

"Despite everything, there is a thread of continuity in our national identity—reflected in institutions, ideas and, especially, in attitude—that remains unbroken. Above all, we are still, at root, a nation that believes in democracy, even if we don't always act on that belief."

DEBORAH TANNEN, *But What Do You Mean?* 437

"Women are often told they apologize too much. The reason they're told to stop doing it is that, to many men, apologizing seems synonymous with putting oneself down."

ANNE SEXTON, *Her Kind* 445

"A woman like that is not afraid to die. / I have been her kind."

12 Definition 449

Telling What Something Is—and Is Not 450

Why Do We Define? 451

Composing an Essay That Uses Definition 453

Purpose and Audience / Generating Ideas / Organizing and Drafting / Templates

Editing for Common Errors in Definitions 461

Reading a Definition with a Critical Eye 462

• GAIL BABILONIA, *The Celebrity Chef* 463

EVERYDAY DEFINITION / An Epitaph 476

MARY ROACH, *How to Know If You're Dead* 479

"H is unique in that she is both a dead person and a patient on the way to surgery. She is what's known as a 'beating-heart cadaver, alive and well everywhere but her brain."

AMY WILENTZ, *A Zombie Is a Slave Forever* 487

"There seem to be more and more zombies every Halloween, more zombies than princesses, fairies, ninjas or knights. In all probability, none of them knows what a zombie really is."

JACK HORNER, *The Extraordinary Characteristics of Dyslexia* 493

"What most non-dyslexics don't know about us, besides the fact that we simply process information differently, is that our early failures often give us an important edge as we grow older."

MIKE ROSE, *Blue-Collar Brilliance* 497

"I couldn't have put it in words when I was growing up, but what I observed in my mother's restaurant defined the world of adults, a place where competence was synonymous with physical work."

BOBBIE ANN MASON, *Being Country* 507

"I believed progress meant freedom from the field and the range. That meant moving to town, I thought."

FLANNERY O'CONNOR, *A Good Man Is Hard to Find* 517

"The grandmother shrieked. She scrambled to her feet and stood staring. 'You're The Misfit!' she said. 'I recognized you at once!'"

13 Cause and Effect 533

Analyzing Why Things Happen—or Might Happen 534

Why Do We Analyze Causes and Effects? 534

Composing a Cause-and-Effect Analysis 535

Purpose and Audience / Generating Ideas / Organizing and Drafting / Templates

Reading a Cause-and-Effect Analysis with a Critical Eye 547

Editing for Common Errors in a Cause-and-Effect Analysis 549

- PAULA T. KELSO, *Behind the Curtain* 550

EVERYDAY CAUSE AND EFFECT / A Rube Goldberg Pencil Sharpener 566

HENRY L. ROEDIGER III, *Why Are Textbooks So Expensive?* 569

"Let us go back in time to what educational historians refer to as the later Paleolithic era in higher education, that is, the late 1960s, when I was in college. Here was how the used book market worked then."

MARY HANNIBAL, *Why the Beaver Should Thank the Wolf* 577

"Far from being freeloaders on the top of the food chain, wolves have a powerful effect on the well-being of the ecosystems around them."

JON MOOALLEM, *Squirrel Power!* 583

"Mr. Koprowski started studying squirrels as a biology student in Ohio because he needed to study some sort of wild animal and he didn't own a car."

MATTHEW YGLESIAS, *Money Isn't Everything* 591

"The rivalry between Steve Jobs and Bill Gates that dominated the computer industry for decades is over."

URSULA K. LE GUIN, *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas* 595

"With a clamor of bells that set the swallows soaring, the festival of Summer came to the city Omelas, bright-towered by the sea."

14 Argument 603

Making and Supporting a Claim 604

Why Do We Argue? 604

Composing an Argument 605

Purpose and Audience / Generating Ideas / Organizing and Drafting / Templates

Editing for Common Errors in Arguments 621

Reading an Argument with a Critical Eye 622

• MATTHEW DOUGLAS, *The Evil Empire?* 624

EVERYDAY ARGUMENT / Life Is Good 632

THOMAS JEFFERSON, *The Declaration of Independence* 335

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

MICHELLE OBAMA, *Remarks at Topeka School District*

Senior Recognition Day 641

"And I think it's fitting that we're celebrating this historic Supreme Court case tonight, not just because *Brown [v. Board of Education]* started right here in Topeka . . . but because I believe that all of you . . . are the living, breathing legacy of this case."

SOJOURNER TRUTH, *Ain't I a Woman?* 649

"If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again!"

MICHAEL LEWIS, *Buy That Little Girl an Ice Cream Cone* 653

"I should be sweeping her out of the pool and washing her mouth out with soap. . . . Actually, I'm impressed. More than impressed: awed. It's just incredibly heroic, taking out after this rat pack of boys."

JUANA MORA, *Acculturation Is Bad for Our Health: Eat More Nopalitos* 659

"Our families bring us here to improve our educational opportunities and to live better lives. But they seldom know about the long-term effects of immigration."

RODOLFO F. ACUÑA, *We Owe History* 667

"In sum, every Spanish-speaking person in the United States owes a debt to Chicanos and to the history of activists that came before them."

DEBATING THE VALUE OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION 675

CATHERINE RAMPPELL, *College Graduates Fare Well* 676

"Despite the painful upfront cost, the return on investment on a college degree remains high."

PETER GERSTENZANG, *My Education, Repossessed* 682

"I fell so far behind in my student loan payments that the government decided to move against me."

THE ECONOMIST, *Higher Education: Not What It Used to Be* 685

"A degree has always been considered the key to a good job. But rising fees and increasing student debt, combined with shrinking financial and educational returns, are undermining at least the perception that university is a good investment."

DEBATING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY 693

ROY PETER CLARK, *Imagination or Theft?* 694

"It makes no difference to me that an author is rewarded for bad behavior. I'm too busy learning."

MARC HOGAN, *Judas Priest: Bob Dylan Slams Plagiarism Accusers* 699

"It's called songwriting,' Dylan tells *Rolling Stone*. 'It has to do with melody and rhythm, and then after that, anything goes.'"

ELLEN GOODMAN, *Who Owns Dr. King's Words?* 703

"At first it sounds like a question for a panel of philosophers: Who owns a dream?"

LAWRENCE LESSIG, *Free Culture* 708

"Free cultures . . . leave a great deal open for others to build upon; unfree, or permission cultures leave much less. Ours was a free culture. It is becoming much less so."

DEBATING THE EFFECTS OF DIGITAL CULTURE 715

ANNIE MURPHY PAUL, *You'll Never Learn!* 716

"It really seems that they could not go for 15 minutes without engaging their devices. . . . It was kind of scary, actually."

CLIVE THOMPSON, *The Art of Finding* 724

"While we think of knowledge as an individual possession, our command of facts is often extremely collaborative."

BROOKE GLADSTONE AND JOSH NEUFELD, *The Influencing Machines* 728

"Brain studies suggest that consuming information on the Internet develops different cognitive abilities, so it's likely we are being rewired now in response to our technology."

ETHAN KUPERBERG, *Deactivated* 746

"You know what your decision to deactivate your account is? It's impulsive. Impulsive. And I think we both know how you come to regret impulsive decisions."

15 Combining the Methods 751

MICHAEL LEWIS, *Liar's Poker* 755

"The code of the Liar's Poker player was something like the code of the gunslinger. It required a trader to accept all challenges."

EVERYDAY WRITING / A Book Cover 760

JOAN DIDION, *On Going Home* 763

"I am home for my daughter's first birthday. By 'home' I do not mean the house in Los Angeles where my husband and I and the baby live, but the place where my family is, in the Central Valley of California."

LINDA HOGAN, *Hearing Voices* 767

"As an Indian woman, I come from a long history of people who have listened to the language of this continent, people who have known that corn grows with the songs and prayers of the people, that it has a story to tell, that the world is alive."

GLORIA ANZALDÚA, *Linguistic Terrorism* 773

"In childhood we are told that our language is wrong. Repeated attacks on our native tongue diminish our sense of self. The attacks continue throughout our lives."

BILL BRYSON, *Babe Ruth's Summer of Records* 777

"Even with the benefit of steroids most modern players still couldn't hit as many home runs as Babe Ruth hit on hot dogs."

ATUL GAWANDE, *The Checklist Manifesto* 785

"Medicine . . . poses a significant challenge: What do you do when expertise is not enough?"

Appendix: Using Sources in Your Writing 799

Finding and Evaluating Sources 800 / Incorporating Source Materials into Your Text 805 / Acknowledging Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism 808 / Documentation 810 / MLA In-Text Documentation 811 / MLA List of Works Cited 815

• Sample Research Paper: DYLAN BORCHERS, *Against the Odds* 827

Credits 836

Glossary / Index 843