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Department of English
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MEMORANDUM

To: All Faculty and Assistant Instructors
From: Mara Holt, Assistant Director of Freshman English
Date: May 2, 1985
Re: E 306 Approved Texts for 1985-86

The Freshman English Policy Committee has selected the following textbooks for use in E 306 beginning in the Fall 1985 semester:

Rhetorics

Axelrod & Cooper, The St. Martin's Guide to Writing (St. Martin's)

Traditional rhetorical assumptions integrated with a process approach. Emphasis on the relationship between critical reading and writing. Contains reader-like selections as models of writing, including student essays. Good assignments. Excellent section on evaluative writing.

Garrison, How a Writer Works, revised ed. (Harper & Row)

Based on conference method. Romantic, self-expressive assumptions: "Learning to write is largely self-taught." SHORT book, fine prose style. Many student and professional papers provided as models. The book focuses a magnifying glass on the process of writing.

Kinneavy, McCleary & Nakadate, Writing in the Liberal Arts Tradition (Harper & Row)

Assumptions: Teaching writing is first teaching thinking, from simple to complex; combines process and product approaches; traditional rhetorical emphasis. Uses student and professional essays as models. Clear style. No separate research paper section, no extras.

Adams, The Writer's Mind (Scott, Foresman) - APPROVED VARIANT

A lively, well-written examination of the writing process with useful advice about clarity, style, and thinking.

Bruffee, A Short Course in Writing, 3rd ed. (Little, Brown) - APPROVED
VARIANT

Assumption: Writing is a social act. Best presentation of collaborative learning model available. Student essays as models. Research paper section good, but may not work for our syllabus. Appendix on modes; appendix for teachers explains rationale for particular assignments.

Flower, Problem-Solving Strategies in Writing, 2nd ed. (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich) - APPROVED VARIANT

Process/problem-solving approach; based on cognitive psychology-traditional rhetoric. Includes case studies and protocols. Executive metaphors predominate. Business correspondence and student papers as models. Concise, efficient prose style. Short bibliography at the end of each chapter. Research paper handled only with short case studies.

Handbooks

Corder & Ruszkiewicz, Handbook of Current English, 7th ed. (Scott, Foresman)

Notable for its sections on rhetoric (the most up-to-date of all handbooks reviewed), on writing about literature, on plagiarism, and on language attitudes (including the she/he pronoun problem).

Guth, New Concise Handbook, 1985 printing (Wadsworth)

A brief version of the Guth New English Handbook used last year. Handsome layout. Convenient size.

Readers

Atwan & Vesterman, One Hundred Major Modern Writers (Bobbs-Merrill)

General freshman audience; alphabetical organization with rhetorical index; fine essays and essayists in widely ranging fields.

Kennedy & Kennedy, The Bedford Reader, 2nd (new) ed. (St. Martin's)

Rhetorical modes with theme index; good material on language, writing strategy, and process; rich variety; very readable; no fiction; separate classics section.

Shrodes, Finestone & Shugrue, The Conscious Reader, 3rd (new) ed. (Macmillan)

Thematic, with rhetorical index; does not emphasize writing strategies but rather thoughtful and penetrating analysis of essay content; general thrust of apparatus is writing in response to non-fiction.

Hall, The Contemporary Essay (St. Martin's) - APPROVED VARIANT

Wide range of field, subject; aims at presenting the best contemporary prose; touts essay as the major literary form today; excellent apparatus includes questions on meaning, strategy, explorations leading to further reading.

Sommers & McQuade, Student Writers at Work (St. Martin's) - retained as APPROVED VARIANT

Focuses on writing process; uses Bedford prize essays with comments of students on getting started, revising, etc.; graphic illustrations of manuscripts in process, peer editing, professional editing, etc.

Stubbs & Barnet, The Little, Brown Reader, 3rd ed. (Little, Brown) - retained as APPROVED VARIANT

Stresses reading analysis and invention; wide selections: short views, essays, fiction, poetry, aphorisms, pictures; broad range of authors, subjects, with some classics.

Trimmer & Hairston, The Riverside Reader, vol. 1, 2nd ed. (Houghton Mifflin) - APPROVED VARIANT

Wide range of accessible essays geared toward students' interests; readable; rhetorical index.

Of the above selections, only Student Writers at Work and The Little, Brown Reader, 3rd ed., were on the E 306 approved list for 1984-85. We are using new editions of The Bedford Reader and The Conscious Reader.

Please come to the Freshman English Book Fair, 1:00-4:00 p.m. today, Thursday, May 2, in Chez Cal to see these books for yourself. Alternatively, you are encouraged to examine these textbooks in the Freshman English Office (Parlin 16). If you expect to be teaching E 306 in the fall and would like to use any of the approved variants, please let the Freshman English Office know by Wednesday, May 15 and we will place an order with the bookstores.

