

This year, the Freshman English Policy Committee is authorizing alternative texts for both the rhetoric and the reader in E306. Listed below are the options. Please designate the rhetoric and the reader of your choice. Copies of all these texts are available for inspection in both the faculty lounge and the Freshman English Office (Rm. 14). (The designated handbook for all freshman courses is Corder's Handbook of Current English.)

RHETORICS

Jim Corder, Contemporary Writing: Process and Practice.

1. Scope: 493 pps. (including 55 pp. handbook section); unusually thorough, but neglects induction and deduction in its chapter on argument; detailed treatment of organization, sentences, words.
2. Relationship to syllabus: More adaptable to the E306 syllabus than D'Angelo; less so than Ebbitt/Ebbitt.
3. Readability and format: Opening five chapters (admirably detailed discussions of invention and pre-writing) move slowly, but subsequent chapters are engaging; format is open, attractive, unformidable; style is conversational without being chatty.
4. Misc: Incorporates much current thinking and research in comp./rhetoric.

Frank D'Angelo, Process and Thought in Composition.

1. Scope: 408 pp.; less comprehensive than Corder or Ebbitt/Ebbitt; no separate discussion of persuasion; excellent treatment of invention and organization; useful chapter on imitation; no handbook section.
2. Relationship to syllabus: D'Angelo's emphasis on modes (narration, cause and effect, classification, etc.) differs from the E306 syllabus' emphasis on aims (self-expression, persuasion, argument); more particularly, D'Angelo scants argumentation and self-expression; on its own terms, however, the text offers a pedagogically sound approach to the teaching of composition and is especially effective in explaining strategies of invention and organization.
3. Readability and format: Clear, workmanlike style; accessible to students; open, clean format.
4. Misc: Text based on D'Angelo's A Conceptual Theory of Rhetoric; ample selection of student essays to illustrate rhetorical principles.

Wilma R. Ebbitt and David R. Ebbitt, Writer's Guide to English.

NOTE: The adopted edition of this text will not include the "Index" section (pp. 383-685 in the examination copies).

1. Scope: 380 pp. in the adopted edition; thorough treatment of traditional rhetorical categories, including persuasion and argumentation; no direct treatment of self-expression.

2. Relationship to syllabus: most readily adaptable to current F306 syllabus.
3. Readability and format: readable but not exciting; occasionally abstract, especially in chapter on logic; less engaging format than either Corder or D'Angelo, but not intimidating.
4. Misc: Economical treatment of pre-writing.

READERS (2 options)

Decker, Patterns of Exposition

363 pp., 43 selections.

Most selections are 5-7 pp.

Essays are exclusively expository.

Rhetorically arranged (Illustration by Example, Classification, Comparison/Contrast, etc.) Short rhetorical introductions.

Lengthy apparatus at end of selections.

Stubbs and Barnet, The Little, Brown Reader

549 pp., 110 selections.

More variety in both scope and length of selections.

Most selections are expository, but some poetry and fiction are included.

Thematically arranged, with rhetorical table of contents in teacher's manual.

Some photographs.

Questions only at end of selections.

Handsome format.