Contents

Foreword  Naomi Shihab Nye  xv

Introduction  xvii

Chapter 1  Thinking About Writing  1
Writing Quiz  2
Answers to Writing Quiz  3
Defining Good Writing  10
Writing with a Purpose  12
Practice  18
Chapter Assignment  19
Professional Models
  1.1  “So You Want to Be a Writer”  Donald M. Murray  21
  1.2  “Write Anyplace”  Natalie Goldberg  24
  1.3  Introduction to Escaping into the Open  Elizabeth Berg  26
  1.4  “We Had the Love, But I Long for the Letters”  William Shaw  28
  1.5  “Scratching the Paper”  Tony Romano  31
Student Models
  1.1  “Trying to Get Better”  James Kuo  33
  1.2  “Sustenance”  Amy Walter  36
  1.3  “Writing Everywhere”  Kori Zwald  38
  1.4  “Free to Be Me”  Lin Wojciechowski  40

Chapter 2  Description  43
Using Connotation and Denotation  44
Using Imagery  45
Using Figurative Language: Simile and Metaphor  48
Understanding Why Description Works  50
Using Effective Verbs  52
Practice  55
Chapter Assignment  60
Professional Models
  2.1  “A Country Road Song”  Andre Dubus  62
  2.2  “In Bed”  Joan Didion  66
  2.3  from One Writer’s Beginnings  Eudora Welty  70
  2.4  “Is This Heaven? No, It’s Wrigley Field”  Gary Anderson  74
Student Models
2.1 “I Can’t Be Him All the Time” Jonathan Congdon 77
2.2 “Day One” Hannah Wolfe 81
2.3 “My Sanctuary” Emily Bruflat 83
2.4 “The Scarf” Elizabeth Johnson 87

Chapter 3  Narration
Choosing a Topic 90
Writing with Purpose 91
Writing Beginnings 93
Writing Endings 94
Selecting Verb Tense and Point of View 96
Practice 98
Chapter Assignment 99

Professional Models
3.1 “Education by the Numbers” Daniel Ferri 101
3.2 “Aria” Richard Rodriguez 105
3.3 “My Mother Never Worked” Bonnie Smith-Yackel 111

Student Models
3.1 “In the Shoes of a True Ethiopian” Noah Begashaw 116
3.2 “My Slide” Angela Zade 119
3.3 “Her Time to Go” Laura Flynn 122
3.4 “Backwards Tumble” by Michele Nimetz 125

Chapter 4  Example
Writing with Purpose 129
Determining How Many Examples 131
Using Different Types of Examples 132
Organizing Examples 134
Using Transitions 135
Types of Transitions 136
Practice 139
Chapter Assignment 140

Professional Models
4.1 “So Much to Hate, and So Little Time” Mike Royko 142
4.2 “Involuntary Conversions, Preemptive Counterattacks, and Incomplete Successes: The World of Doublespeak” William Lutz 145
4.3 “The Nature of Things” Ruth Cherry 153
4.4 “The Joy of the Wild” Theodore Roosevelt 156
Student Models
4.1 “Laugh Out Loud Good English” Katherine Lee 159
4.2 “Beauty Is in the Eye of the Beholder” Colleen Veit 163
4.3 “The Caroline Chronicles” Caroline VanAcker 166

Chapter 5 Comparison and Contrast
170
Choosing a Topic
172
Organizing a Comparison Essay
174
Practice
179
Chapter Assignment
180

Professional Models
5.1 from Life on the Mississippi Mark Twain 183
5.2 “Once Unique, Soon a Place Like Any Other” Abe Whaley 185
5.3 “Male-Female Conversation Is Cross-Cultural Communication” Deborah Tannen 188

Student Models
5.1 “Meet Me at Half-Time” Karen Werling 193
5.2 “Writing Road: An Intellectual Journey Through the Progression of a Student’s Writing” Joe Pacilio 196
5.3 “Grandmother’s House” Anastasia Kotsakis 199
5.4 “It Doesn’t Take a Genius to Notice…” Dipika Chaudhuri 202

Chapter 6 Writing About a Process
205
Choosing a Topic
206
Dividing the Process into Manageable Steps
208
Writing About a Single Step
209
Discussing the Steps in Order
210
Providing Transitions Between Steps
212
Considering Your Tone
213
Practice
214
Chapter Assignment
214

Professional Models
6.1 “That’s What I Call Funny” Dave Chappelle 217
6.2 “Home to the Hills” Chris Offutt 219
6.3 “When You Camp Out, Do it Right” Ernest Hemingway 222
6.4 “On Dumpster Diving” Lars Eighner 226

Student Models
6.1 “How to Avoid Class Participation” Karisa Tell 232
6.2 “Taking Position” Brooke Kettering 235
6.3 “Becoming a Poet” Ben Williams 237
Chapter 7  Definition and Classification  242
Choosing a Topic  243
Using Classification  244
Developing Your Essay  248
Practice  250
Chapter Assignment  251
Professional Models
7.1  “Maybe Your Inner Child is Comfy in Middle Ages”  Burt Constable  254
7.2  “Leave Me Alone. Is solitude such a terrible thing to wish for? I think not.”  Garrison Keillor  256
7.3  “In Giving I Connect with Others”  Isabel Allende  259
7.4  “Horizontal Slices of Poverty”  Kevin Brewner  261
7.5  “Sidewalks Can Make a Town a Neighborhood”  Carolyn V. Egan  263
Student Models
7.1  “The New Millennium’s Little Heroes”  Agnes Milczarek  266
7.2  “The Nerdification Proclamation”  Emily Prescott  269
7.3  “Poetic Privacy”  Anthony G. Banks, Jr.  272
7.4  “A Gift in Disguise”  Ryan Patrick Kelley  274

Chapter 8  Argument  278
Using Logic to Persuade  280
Avoiding Fallacies  282
Building a Valid Argument  285
Organizing Your Essay  289
Choosing a Topic  291
Practice  295
Chapter Assignment  296
Professional Models
8.1  “I Have a Dream”  Martin Luther King, Jr.  299
8.2  “Now You Take ‘Bambi or ‘Snow White’— That’s Scary!”  Stephen King  304
8.3  “No Heart for the Homeless”  Stuart D. Bykofsky  308
8.4  “Frightening—And Fantastic”  Anna Quindlen  311
Student Models
8.1  “The New Face of Bullying”  Jackie Schiffer  314
8.2  “Conquering Close-Mindedness”  Lauryn Bruck  318
8.3  “The Siesta Solution”  Jennifer Ford  323
8.4  “Is This What Life’s About?”  Elizabeth Shaw  326
### Chapter 9  The Research Paper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Generating a Thesis</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing a Preliminary Outline</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating a Preliminary Works Cited List</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking Notes</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing a Final, Ultradetailed Outline</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing a Rough Draft</td>
<td>335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editing Your Rough Draft and Preparing a Final Copy</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Assignment</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student Model**

9.1 “America: Made in China”  Mark Wiemer  354

### Chapter 10  Writing About Literature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choosing a Literary Thesis</td>
<td>362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using the Historical Present Tense</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entering the World of Literary Research</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Assignment</td>
<td>366</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Professional Models**

10.1 “Physical and Social Laws in Ray Carver’s ‘Popular Mechanics’”  Norman German and Jack Bedell  381

**Student Model**

10.1 “Fate is Fate”  Mitch Dinterman  386

### Chapter 11  Writing the College Application Essay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay Topics</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay-Writing Tips</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Assignment</td>
<td>397</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student Models**

11.1 “Silhouettes”  Katherine Berger  404

11.2 “Personal Geography”  Alex Beata  405

11.3 “The Zen of Clams”  Nicole Perry  406

### Chapter 12  Writing Online

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How is Online Writing Different?</td>
<td>411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How is Online Writing the Same?</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microblogs</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blogs</td>
<td>414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Networks and Communities</td>
<td>415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wikis</td>
<td>416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Assignment</td>
<td>418</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student Models**

11.1 “Silhouettes”  Katherine Berger  404

11.2 “Personal Geography”  Alex Beata  405

11.3 “The Zen of Clams”  Nicole Perry  406
Professional Models
12.1 “Running On Ice” Mary Fons 432
12.2 “On Being a “Market Kid”” Mary Fons 433
12.3 “Moderation, Guilt, and Social Media” Meredith Stewart 434
12.4 “Capture the Conversation” Michele Norris 436

Student Models
12.1 “Testing” Kaval Kaziz 439
12.2 “War on Freedom” Zahira Rodriguez 440
12.3 “What Does It Take?” Lindsey Washall 442
12.4 “Love Isn’t Blind” Aly Freeman 443
12.5 “Air Glory” Lilly Rotter 445

Chapter 13 Thinking Like a Writer: Creative Nonfiction
447

Realizing You’re a Writer 448
Writing Creative Fiction 451
Writing Satire and Parody 453
Being a Writer 457
Practice 458
Chapter Assignment 459

Professional Models
13.1 “‘No Messages on This Server,’ and Other Lessons of Our Time” Verlyn Klinkenborg 462
13.2 “I Have Been Called a Luddite” Kurt Vonnegut 465
13.3 “My Black Skin Makes My White Coat Vanish” Mana Lumumba-Kasongo 468
13.4 “Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech, 1950” William Faulkner 471

Student Models
13.1 “The Question” Julia Kraus 473
13.2 “Hope” Samantha Schmaus 476
13.3 “The Art of Applying: A Satirical Approach to the College Admissions Process” Colleen Reding 481

Appendix A Grammar, Usage, and Punctuation Handbook 484
Appendix B Graphic Organizers 531
Appendix C Writing for the ACT and SAT 539
Appendix D Documentation Formats 546
Index 549
Acknowledgments 563

xiv Contents