

# A Writer's Resource

FOURTH EDITION



Elaine P. Maimon    Janice H. Peritz    Kathleen Blake Yancey

# A Writer's Resource

A Handbook for Writing  
and Research

*Fourth Edition*

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# Preface

## A Letter from the Authors

Even though the audiences, tools, and occasions for writing today may seem more varied than ever, the fundamental goals of composition courses persist. Instructors strive to motivate and coach students to think critically, recognize rhetorical situations, communicate clearly and effectively, compose in a variety of genres and media, and edit their own work. They create learning environments where students can practice writing and do research that is discerning and ethical, representing the contributions of others fairly and using and documenting sources appropriately.

Composition courses ultimately aim to help students build a solid set of writing skills that will transfer into other courses and support their efforts within their communities and in their professional lives. In revising this text, we have dedicated ourselves to making *A Writer's Resource* an even stronger, more practical, and more versatile resource for achieving excellence in the ever-changing environments that students encounter in college. In this edition, we have paid special attention to helping students understand, navigate, and master common writing situations. This situational approach to writing will help students think about the writing opportunity and move forward to achieve their purposes.

Thanks in advance for taking a moment to browse through the pages that follow to sample our suggestions.

Sincerely,

**Elaine P. Maimon**

**Janice H. Peritz**

**Kathleen Blake Yancey**