Contents

Note to the Fourth Edition				
Note to the Third Edition Note to the Second Edition				
1	Author and Audience			
	1	The Professor as Audience	8	
	2	The Student as Author	11	
	3	Three Attitudes about Philosophical Method	15	
2	Logic and Argument for Writing			
	1	What is a Good Argument?	17	
	2	Valid Arguments	21	
	3	Cogent Arguments	31	
	4	Quantification and Modality	35	
	5	Consistency and Contradiction	40	
	6	Contraries and Contradictories	43	
	7	The Strength of a Proposition	46	
3	The Structure of a Philosophical Essay			
	1	An Outline of the Structure of a Philosophical Essay	51	
	2	Anatomy of an Essay	57	
	3	Another Essay	63	

Contents

4	Composing		67
	1	How to Select an Essay Topic	68
	2	Techniques for Composing	69
	3	Outlining	70
	4	The Rhetoric of Philosophical Writing	70
	5	Successive Elaboration	72
	6	Conceptual Note Taking	81
	7	Research and Composing	83
	8	Sentences and Paragraphs	84
	9	Polishing	87
	10	Evolution of an Essay	89
5	Tac	101	
	1	Definitions	102
	2	Distinctions	108
	3	Analysis	111
	4	Dilemmas	119
	5	Scenarios	123
		Counterexamples	125
		Reductio ad Absurdum	132
	8	Dialectical Reasoning	138
6	Some Constraints on Content		146
	1	The Pursuit of Truth	146
	2	The Use of Authority	147
	3	The Burden of Proof	150
7	Sor	ne Goals of Form	152
		Coherence	152
		Clarity	156
	3	Conciseness	162
	4	Rigor	165
8	Pro	168	
		Slip Sliding Away	168
		The Tail Wagging the Dog	173
	3 '	The Running Start	175

Contents

How to Read a Philosophical Work		181		
1 Find the Thesis	Sentence	181		
2 Precision of Wo	rds, Phrases, and Sentences	185		
3 Proving the Car	se	186		
Appendix A: "It's Sund	ay Night and I Have an Essay			
Due Monday Morning"				
Appendix B: How to Study for a Test				
Appendix C: Research: Notes, Citations, and References				
Appendix D: Philosoph	y Resources on the Internet,			
by Neil Sinhababu				
Appendix E: On Grading				
Appendix F: Glossary of Philosophical Terms				
Index				