## Contents

Preface ix A Key to Types of Writing Assignments xi

## PART ONE

1 The Writer as Reader: Reading and Responding 3 KATE CHOPIN, "RIPE FIGS" 3 READING AS RE-CREATION 4 MAKING REASONABLE INFERENCES 5 READING WITH A PEN IN HAND 6 RECORDING YOUR FIRST RESPONSES 7 AUDIENCE AND PURPOSE 8 A WRITING ASSIGNMENT ON "RIPE FIGS" 9 The Assignment 9 A Sample Essay 9 Other Possibilities for Writing 10 2 The Reader as Writer: Drafting and Writing 11 PRE-WRITING: GETTING IDEAS 11 Annotating a Text 11 More about Getting Ideas: Kate Chopin, "The Story of an Hour" 12 Brainstorming for Ideas for Writing 14 Focused Free Writing 14 Listing 15 Asking Questions 16 Keeping a Journal 17 Arriving at a Thesis 18 - 19 WRITING A DRAFT A Sample Draft: "Ironies in an Hour" 20

3

Revising a Draft 21 Peer Review 22 THE FINAL VERSION 24 "Ironies of Life in Kate Chopin's 'The Story of an Hour'" 24 A Brief Overview of the Final Version 25 Writing about Literature: An Overview THE NATURE OF CRITICAL WRITING 27 SOME KINDS OF ESSAYS -28 Historical, Biographical, Psychological, Feminist, and Formalist Criticism 28 TWO COMMON APPROACHES: EXPLICATION AND ANALYSIS 32 Explication 32 A Sample Explication: Langston Hughes's "Harlem" 32 Working toward an Explication of "Harlem" 34 Some Journal Entries 34 A Final Draft 36 Analysis 38 Comparison: An Analytic Tool 41 A Note on Writing a Summary 44 FINDING A TOPIC 45 Sample Topics in Fiction 46 PLOT, THEME, CHARACTER, FORESHADOWING, SETTING, SYMBOLISM, POINT OF VIEW Sample Topics in Drama 48 IRONY, TRAGEDY, COMEDY, PLOT, GESTURE Sample Topics in Poetry 49 VOICE, DICTION, FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE, SYMBOLISM, STRUCTURE, IRONY, PATTERNS OF SOUND CONSIDERING THE EVIDENCE 50 ORGANIZING THE MATERIAL 50 COMMUNICATING JUDGMENTS 51 REVIEW: HOW TO WRITE AN EFFECTIVE ESSAY 52 Pre-Writing 52 Drafting 53 Revising 54 Editing 54

## PART TWO

5

6

4	Writing about Essays	57
	THE ESSAYIST'S PERSONA 57 Tone 58	0.
	WRITING ABOUT AN ESSAYIST'S STYLE 59 Joan Didion, "Los Angeles Notebook" 59 Annotations and Journal Entries 61 A Sample Essay on Joan Didion's Style 63	
	SUMMING UP: GETTING IDEAS FOR WRITING ABOUT ESSAYS 65	
5	Writing about Fiction: The World of the Story	66
	PLOT AND CHARACTER 66 Writing about a Character 69 A Sample Essay on a Character: "Holden's Kid Sister" 71	
	FORESHADOWING 74	
	SETTING AND ATMOSPHERE 77	
	SYMBOLISM 78 A Sample Essay on Atmosphere as Symbol: "Darkness in Dubliners" 80	
	POINT OF VIEW 85 Third-Person Narrators 86 First-Person Narrators 88	
	THEME: VISION OR DISCOURSE? 89 Determining and Discussing the Theme 91 Preliminary Notes and Two Sample Essays on the Theme of Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" 92	
	SUMMING UP: GETTING IDEAS FOR WRITING ABOUT FICTION <i>101</i>	
	WRITING FICTION ABOUT FICTION 104	
6	Writing about Drama	109
	A SAMPLE ESSAY 109 Preliminary Notes 110 "The Solid Structure of The Glass Menagerie" 111	

7

TYPES OF PLAYS 110 Tranedy 116 Comedy 119 Tragicomedy 120 ASPECTS OF DRAMA 122 Theme 122 Plot 124 Conventions 128 Costumes, Gestures, and Settings 129 Characterization and Motivation 132 WRITING A REVIEW OF A PRODUCTION 134 135 A Sample Review: "An Effective Macbeth" SUMMING UP: GETTING IDEAS FOR WRITING ABOUT DRAMA 139

Writing about Poetry

THE SPEAKER AND THE POET 142 The Language of Poetry: Diction and Tone 144 Writing about the Speaker: Robert Frost's "The Telephone" 144 Journal Entries 146

PARAPHRASE 148

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE 149 Preparing to Write about Figurative Language 153

STRUCTURE 155

Annotating and Thinking about a Poem 155 The Student's Finished Essay: "Herrick's Julia, Julia's Herrick" 157 Kinds of Structure 159 Verbal Irony 162 Paradox 162

EXPLICATION 162 A Sample Explication of Yeats's "The Balloon of the Mind" 163

RHYTHM AND VERSIFICATION:

A GLOSSARY FOR REFERENCE 166 Rhythm 166 Meter 168 Patterns of Sound 170 Stanzaic Patterns 171 Blank Verse and Free Verse 173 142

A SAMPLE ESSAY ON METRICS: "Sound and Sense in Housman's 'Eight O'Clock'" 174

SUMMING UP: GETTING IDEAS FOR WRITING ABOUT POETRY 178

Writing about Film

8

9

FILM AS A MEDIUM 181 FILM TECHNIQUES 184 Shots 184 Sequences 186 Transitions 186 Editing 187 THEME 189 GETTING READY TO WRITE

A SAMPLE ESSAY ON VISUAL SYMBOLS: "A Japanese Macbeth" 192

SUMMING UP: GETTING IDEAS FOR WRITING ABOUT FILM 197

## PART THREE

Style and Format PRINCIPLES OF STYLE 203 Get the Right Word 204 Write Effective Sentences 208 Write Unified and Coherent Paragraphs 211 Write Emphatically 217 A Note on Authors' Names and Other Troublesome Matters 218

191

REMARKS ABOUT MANUSCRIPT FORM 219 Basic Manuscript Form 219 Quotations and Quotation Marks 221

10 Research Papers 224 WHAT RESEARCH IS NOT, AND WHAT RESEARCH IS 224 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MATERIALS 225 FROM TOPIC TO THESIS 225

181

203

11

LOCATING MATERIAL 226 First Steps 226 22-Other Bibliographic Aids Taking Notes 229 DRAFTING THE PAPER 2.30 DOCUMENTATION 231 What to Document: Avoiding Plagiarism 231 How to Document: Footnotes and Internal Parenthetical Citations 233 A SAMPLE ESSAY WITH DOCUMENTATION: "Do the Pink Ribbons in Hawthorne's 'Young Goodman Brown' Have a Meaning?" 245 252 Essav Examinations WHAT EXAMINATIONS ARE 252 WRITING ESSAY ANSWERS 25.3 Appendix A: Two Stories 257Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown" 257 Shirley Jackson, "The Lottery" 266

273

Indexes 285

Appendix B: Glossary of Literary Terms