
Wordsmith

A Guide to College Writing

ANNOTATED INSTRUCTOR’S EDITION

Wordsmith
A Guide to College Writing

Seventh Edition

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This book is dedicated to the life of Nick Arlov, with gratitude and love.

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Save Big with the Flashback Budget, Liz Pulliam Weston 202
Thank you for choosing *Wordsmith: A Guide to College Writing* as your textbook. Whether you are teaching from this text or learning from it, it is my hope that you will enjoy its simplicity. Writing itself is remarkably complex, incorporating the personality and experience of each writer and each reader. It also requires adherence to agreed-upon rules of grammar, punctuation, and form. Therefore, I have tried to make this book simple in its structure, straightforward in its language and presentation, and easy to use for both instructors and students.

**Updates to the Seventh Edition**

Several changes have been made in the seventh edition of *Wordsmith: A Guide to College Writing*.

**Changes to Part 1, Composition**

- You will find new exercises, images, assignments, and model essays throughout the section.
- Chapter 8 contains a new and delightful professional essay, “Fish Cheeks” by Amy Tan.
- Chapter 11, Writing a Research Paper, has a new look. In addition to containing the latest MLA updates, it now contains an extensive section on incorporating quotations into research. Because college writing focuses much more on quotations in the context of research rather than as used with simple dialogue, all of the material on quotations and use of quotation marks now resides in Chapter 11.

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Changes to Part 2, Grammar

• Each chapter in this section boasts something new: new questions, new exercises, new Grammar Alert! boxes, and/or new chapter openers.

• An additional paragraph-style editing exercise has been added to important areas where students are most likely to have problems and need extra work: Chapter 13, Subject-Verb Agreement, Chapter 14, Coordination and Subordination, Chapter 15, Run-on Sentences, Chapter 16, Sentence Fragments, and Chapter 18, Pronoun Agreement, Reference, and Point of View.

• In many chapters, particularly the subject-verb agreement chapter and the two pronoun chapters, explanations and examples have been streamlined and simplified to enhance clarity without sacrificing coverage.

Changes to Part 3, Readings

• In addition to Amy Tan’s “Fish Cheeks” in Chapter 8, two new readings have been added with millennial students in mind. For those who have never seen the Milky Way galaxy spread across the night sky, “Our Vanishing Night,” sourced from *National Geographic*, explains how the proliferation of lights over the last couple of centuries has affected animal life, including humans. For those affected by social media envy, “Curing the Social Media Blues” discusses why social media can cause feelings of inadequacy and what can be done about the problem.

Features of *Wordsmith: A Guide to College Writing*

• A three-part layout allows the freedom to mix and match writing chapters, grammar chapters, and readings.

• A structured yet flexible approach to writing encourages clarity and creativity.

• A direct, conversational approach is used throughout.

• Lighthearted chapter openings promote a positive and playful approach to learning.

Part 1: Composition

Part 1, Composition, begins with an overview of the basics. Chapter 1 introduces the writing process and a review of the paragraph; a student essay is presented in all drafts and stages, along with a transcript of a student writing
group’s discussion of the work in progress. Next (in Chapters 2–7), the five steps in the writing process are presented in the order in which most writers address them: prewriting, planning, drafting, revising, and proofreading. This section includes a complete chapter devoted to writing a thesis statement and planning the essay (Chapter 3). Throughout Part 1, topics for essays, paragraphs, and journal writing provide the bases for assignments and encourage further practice.

Chapters 8–10 move into methods of development. Because methods of development are seldom used in isolation in “real-world” writing, they are grouped into three chapters. These groupings highlight the relationships among the modes and allow students to read about all the methods even if they use only a few. Modes with a similar purpose are grouped together, and the optional “Mixed Methods” assignments at the end of the chapter show how the modes can be used together in a single piece of writing. Two full-length essays provide models for each method of development.

Chapter 11, Writing a Research Paper, helps students make the transition from personal writing to academic writing. The chapter provides a step-by-step guide to summarizing an article, then takes students a step further into writing papers based on outside sources.

**Part 2: Grammar**

Part 2, Grammar, can be used in a variety of ways: with direct, in-class instruction; in a lab setting, as a supplement to lab assignments; or for independent study. It also works well for instructors who want to combine methods by addressing more difficult topics in class while assigning easier material or review material for independent study.

In the grammar chapters, explanations are clear, logical, and user-friendly. Each topic is dealt with, one skill at a time, with numerous practice exercises for each skill. The step-by-step, easy-to-understand presentation is suitable for classroom discussion or independent study. At the end of each chapter are review exercises in increasing order of difficulty, ending in most chapters with a paragraph-length editing exercise.

**Part 3: Readings**

Part 3, Readings, offers two poems, a short story, and several high-interest essays by professional writers to reinforce reading skills and serve as springboards for discussions and assignments. In any craft, the works of accomplished artisans can inspire the apprentice. These works model writing at its best: entertaining, challenging, and thought-provoking. Each reading is

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followed by a comprehension exercise that includes questions about content, questions about the writer’s techniques, and related topics for discussion and writing. Diversity in authorship, subject matter, and rhetorical method is emphasized.

Instructor and Student Resources

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**Pamela Arlov**
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