

## ***College Writing: English for Academic Success***

**Review by Zuzana Tomáš**

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*COLLEGE WRITING: ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS*. Series Editors: Patricia Byrd, Joy M. Reid, and Cynthia M. Schuemann, 2006, Boston, MA. Houghton Mifflin Company, \$26.07 per volume.

The *College Writing* series successfully complements the other three Houghton Mifflin *English for Academic Success* series (Reading, Vocabulary, and Oral Communication). The series targets second language writers in North American academic settings, but could be easily adapted in first language and EFL contexts. It comes in four volumes: low intermediate, intermediate, high intermediate, and advanced. The student book is accompanied by *Essentials of Teaching Academic Writing*, a helpful resource for writing instructors.

The *College Writing* series promotes a logical, step-by-step approach to mastering academic writing. The topics and skills are carefully arranged by a gradual increase of difficulty in each successive chapter and volume. This does not mean, however, that the topics and skills in the four volumes are not reviewed. In fact, unlike some other materials, which avoid returning to skills already taught, *College Writing* excels in revisiting areas that tend to be challenging for second language writers. For example, paraphrasing is first introduced in volume 2, and then returned to with more detailed information in volumes 3 and 4.

The series encourages revision and (peer) editing. The authors' belief that it is essential to continue to develop grammatical knowledge while focusing on the improvement of academic writing skills is evident throughout the series as each chapter contains a grammar focus carried out in a variety of sentence and paragraph level exercises.

Additionally, the series stands out in setting clear objectives at the beginning of each chapter and in allowing students to assess the attainment of these objectives. This practice focuses students' attention on the most important points raised in the chapters and helps them develop the ability to analyze their performance critically.

Finally, the *College Writing* series surpasses other textbook series in terms of authenticity. The reading passages that model various writing processes and skills are

selected from a variety of disciplines. Similarly, assignments are adjusted in ways that allow students from different fields to apply new information in contexts most relevant to their academic careers.

More information about the series can be found at <http://college.hmco.com/flash/esl/hmeas/index.html>

### **About the Reviewer**

*Zuzana Tomaz is a Ph.D. student at the University of Utah. She teaches teacher training and ESL courses. She has presented on topics pertinent to academic writing at TESOL and AAAL. She is currently working on an academic writing activity book.*