
Tapestry: Writing 4

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TAPESTRY: WRITING 4. M. E. Sokolik. Boston, MA: Heinle & Heinle, 2000. Pp. 224, (\$27.95).

Tapestry: Writing 4 is the most advanced of four texts resulting from a revision of *The Newbury House Guide to Writing*, a series designed to instruct students in academic writing. The *Tapestry* series aims to incorporate the four core skill areas in a conceptual framework for students, using language learning and academic strategies to enhance and motivate learning. Students using this particular text are expected to function at an advanced level.

An elaborate table of contents gives a clear outline of the organizational structure of the book by chapter, though it does not give page numbers where particular items can be found. The book is divided into 10 chapters, each with a writing skills focus, language-learning strategies, grammar review section, and ways to tie these into viable situations students may encounter. These chapters cover finding, organizing, and analyzing information, preparing to write, narrating and describing an event, writing proposals, and persuading an audience. The appendix helps students with writing concerns such as identifying problematic vocabulary, documenting sources, and finding further writing resources.

Many up-to-date interactive techniques are employed in the various student activities in each chapter. For example, in Chapter 2, students are encouraged to use both top-down and bottom-up strategies to analyze each others' work and then to critique their own, by first looking at individual features and then at more general ideas (pp. 36-37). This is used as a technique for revising and editing ones' own writing. Additionally, a practice group activity in Chapter 9 requires students to use information from previous readings to produce materials for an imaginary community project, and then, by answering specific questions, to evaluate how the group worked together (p. 172). Student groups evaluate their work by comparing themselves with others in a class discussion.

The text includes tips and strategies that are designed to encourage student-motivated learning in a variety of realistic settings. Academic strategies such as test-taking tips found at the end of each chapter encourage students to improve their own

performance. For example, students are encouraged to learn from their mistakes by identifying the correct answers and analyzing why they missed particular questions, discussing them with the instructor if necessary (p. 137).

Teachers may use the text rather freely, choosing from a great range of exercises to support student learning. Practice activities range from individual assignments to group projects and incorporate reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills to get the student to utilize a wide range of strategies. The text could also be used by a student for independent study.

Supplementary material includes an instructor's manual and a CNN video that cover both levels 3 and 4. Additionally, a related website offers activities such as quizzes which can be completed by students online and e-mailed to their teacher from the website.

Individual chapters are well-organized and filled with clear explanations and useful applications. Each is integrated with a clear focus and provides several practice and learning activities, the variety of which will appeal to students. Although writing activities rarely provide a significant number of models or examples, the abundant opportunities for application compensate. Teachers and students in an advanced writing class are likely to enjoy using this textbook whether or not their previous writing experience has been with the *Tapestry* series.

About the Reviewer

Katharine Fluckiger Ponczoch received a B. A. in Linguistics from Brigham Young University in 2001 and will finish the certification program in TESOL at BYU in December of 2002. Primary interests include learning style and perceptual preference research.