
The Process of Composition

Book Review by Neil J. Anderson

THE PROCESS OF COMPOSITION. Joy M. Reid. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1982. pp. 195+appendix. \$10.95.

The Process of Composition by Joy M. Reid, Colorado State University, is an advanced level intensive ESL writing text. This is the very best advanced writing text that I am familiar with. It offers a great variety of exercises that assist ESL students in their development of writing skills.

The text is designed to be used in an intensive ESL program on a daily basis for a fourteen week semester or two seven-week terms. It is designed to prepare ESL students for university writing assignments. For the university bound student this text works through exercises in writing fundamentals that train them in writing effective paragraphs, compositions, and library research papers.

There are thirteen chapters that deal with the following topics: audience, paragraphs, support, development, introduction, organizing the essay, writing the essay,

summary, argumentation, research paper, library research, the process of research, and grammar explanations. The teacher's manual contains a suggested syllabus, explanations, answers to exercises, as well as additional exercises that can be used in the classroom.

Probably the greatest strength of the text as I see it is that there are no lengthy grammar explanations. It is actually a *writing* text. There are practical exercises with samples of writing from ESL students who have completed the writing assignments. There is no strict control of student writing yet it helps them follow a basic formula for success in their writing. Time is spent in writing, *not* in explanations from the teacher.

This text is exactly what is needed for advanced ESL writing students. Students leave your class prepared to use skills acquired during the time you have worked together.

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