

# *Approaches to Academic Reading and Writing*

Review by Cheryl Mason, University of Iowa

APPROACHES TO ACADEMIC READING AND WRITING. Martin L. Arnaudet and Mary Ellen Barrett. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1984. pp. 276, List Price \$11.95. (Teacher's manual available)

*Approaches to Academic Reading and Writing* is designed both for advanced EFL students (TOEFL scores of 550 and above) who are already enrolled in academic classes in an English-speaking country as well as for students and scholars abroad who need to read and write in English in order to pursue their professional interests.

The latter group especially will appreciate the authors' inclusion of three "resource chapters" which are authentic selections from current American college textbooks. The three chapters are representative of academic prose and general enough in content to be of interest to students in any field. Most importantly for students and teachers who might not have access to authentic textbooks in English, these selections make *Approaches* a largely self-contained course and they form the basis for authentic academic writing assignments: short papers, summaries, critical reviews, essay examinations and research papers.

Arnaudet and Barrett's work on paraphrasing is the best I've ever seen in a

writing textbook. They break this critical skill for EFL writers into a number of "pre-paraphrasing" techniques which they demonstrate at various points throughout the book.

The reading sections (designed to help students recognize the elements of organization, basic thought relationships, and textual coherence devices common to academic writing) are also well-done, though the text focuses "intensively" on analytical reading of prose for only the first 68 pages of the text.

Some teachers (myself included) may find Arnaudet and Barrett's approach a bit prescriptive. Their premise is that "if a learner of English as second language becomes proficient in *one approach* to the task—one which is acceptable in any circumstance—then that student will be able to write successfully in other coursework or in professional activities." To the extent that this is true, *Approaches to Academic Reading and Writing* is a very successful and welcome addition to the field.

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