

Some Features of

A NEW HANDBOOK FOR WRITERS

By SUMNER IVES

A SHORT FIRST CHAPTER reviews elementary problems. A student can read it at one sitting before he writes his first freshman theme.

The grammatical description is based on written English, but phonological conventions are used as supplementary criteria. It is essentially a description of syntactic structures, their functions, and the forms required by them.

The study of grammar and its usage is based on four functions — nominal, adjectival, verbal and adverbial. Thus form and function are integrated, and isolated problems in sentence structure can be taught individually, but within the controlled framework.

The basic sentence patterns are set forth so that attention can be focused on them and their variations explored.

The student is told how to punctuate specific constructions rather than how to use particular marks. In other words, he learns to solve punctuation problems; he does not memorize rules for the use of punctuation marks.

The symbolic aspect of language is discussed and varieties of meaning are described.

Some principles of logical thinking and some logical fallacies are described, as these relate to writing and reading.

The section on the library paper gives all the information on documentation which an undergraduate is likely to need.

A great many exercises are given. All those which call for revision are taken from student writing and thus present the problems as students actually encounter them.

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