

References On Writing Well & Researching History

On Writing

- Claire Kehrwald Cook. *Line by Line: How to Improve Your Own Writing* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1985).
For the advanced writer. Step by step analysis of good and bad prose.
- Peter Elbow. *Writing With Power: Techniques for Mastering the Writing Process*. (New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981).
Excellent distinction made between the twin processes of creative writing and critical revision as well as techniques for getting ideas down on paper.
- Wilson Follet. *Modern American Usage: A Guide*. Edited by Jacques Barzun. (New York: Hill and Wang, 1966. The Noonday Press, sixth printing, 1992).
Erudite, concise, and often witty essays on how to use words.
- Diana Hacker. *A Writer's Reference*. Third Edition. (Boston: Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press, 1995).
Excellent organization, tabs, and index for quick answers to persistent questions.
- Richard A. Lanham. *Revising Prose*. Third Edition. (New York: Macmillan, 1992).
Explains how to apply the "Paramedic method" to eliminate dross and academese.
- Anne Lamott. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. (New York: Anchor Books, 1995). "Short Assignments" and "Shitty First Drafts" are good amusing readings to help jump-start the process of writing in any discipline.
- Aurthur Plotnik. *The Elements of Editing*. (New York, Macmillan, 1982).
More for professional editors than students, but good for academic writers.
- Margaret Shertzer. *The Elements of Grammar* (New York, Macmillan, 1986).
Excellent coverage of the basics of grammatical terminology, rules of grammar, and word usage for writing and speaking. Builds up from Struck & White.
- William Struck, Jr. & E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. (New York: Macmillan, 1990).
A classic worth reading at least once a year. Concise, terse, clear explanations of grammar and style.
- Anthony Weston. *A Rulebook for Arguments*. Second Edition. Indianapolis/Cambridge: Hackett Publishing Company, 1992.
Concise analysis of the logic of and specific rules for argumentative writing.
- Joseph M. Williams. *Style: Ten Lessons in Clarity & Grace* (Glenview, Illinois: Scott, Foresman and Company, 1981).
One of the most eloquent books on how to write clearly and effectively.
- William Zinsser. *On Writing Well: An Informal Guide to Writing Nonfiction*. Second Revised Edition. (New York: Harper and Row, 1980).
A collection of well-written essays that expand upon various aspects of the craft of writing nonfiction. Has become a recent classic for writers in all disciplines.

On Historical Research

Bernard Bailyn. *On the Teaching & Writing of History: Responses to a series of questions*. (Hanover, New Hampshire: University Press of New England, 1994).

A short, engaging, and illuminating interview with a renowned historian of Early American history.

Jacques Barzun and Henry F. Graff. *The Modern Researcher*. (Fifth Edition. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers, 1992).

A basic guide to the methods and disciplinary conventions of historical research and writing by two historians at Columbia University.

Howard Becker. *Tricks of the Trade: How to Think about Your Research while You're Doing it*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998).

Insightful essays on how a sociologist thinks, researches, and writes through five categories—tricks, imagery, sampling, concepts, and logic.

Wayne C. Booth, et al. *The Craft of Research* (Chicago/London: The University of Chicago Press, 1995).

One of the best resources for how to frame one's arguments to participate in ongoing conversations with other scholars. Useful distinction between pragmatic writing to help solve a problem and conceptual writing to help improve understanding.

Marius, Richard. *A Short Guide to Writing About History*. Third Edition. (New York: Longman, Inc., 1999).

The history part of "The Short Guide Series" to writing in various disciplines including art, biology, chemistry, film, history, literature, social sciences, and science. Excellent introduction for students to conventions of research, argumentation, and writing style in history.

And last, but by no means least, the academic and professional writer's final authority on all questions related to writing:

The Chicago Manual of Style. 14th Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1993.