

the end of composition studies

The End of Composition Studies: What It Means for Writing and Education

the end of composition studies marks a significant turning point in how we understand, teach, and engage with writing. For decades, composition studies have been a cornerstone of academic curricula, focusing on developing students' writing skills, critical thinking, and rhetorical awareness. Yet, as educational priorities shift and digital communication evolves, many scholars and educators are questioning whether traditional composition studies as we know them are reaching a natural conclusion. Is this the end of an era, or simply the beginning of a new chapter in writing education?

Understanding the Shift: Why Talk About the End of Composition Studies?

Composition studies emerged in the early 20th century as a distinct academic discipline dedicated to exploring writing as a craft and a method of inquiry. It emphasized teaching composition through structured methods, focusing on grammar, syntax, and essay formats. Over time, the field expanded to include rhetoric, writing across the curriculum, and the social contexts of writing.

However, several factors are contributing to the conversation about the end of traditional composition studies:

- The rise of digital media and multimodal communication
- An increased focus on interdisciplinary learning
- Changes in student demographics and learning styles
- Shifts in institutional priorities and funding
- The evolving nature of literacy in the 21st century

All these elements challenge the relevance and structure of classic composition programs, urging educators to rethink how writing is taught and valued.

The Evolution of Writing in a Digital Age

From Pen and Paper to Screens and Beyond

One of the most profound influences on composition studies is technology. Writing is no longer confined to essays and printed pages; it now encompasses blogs, social media posts, video scripts, and even coding. This expansion requires new literacies—digital literacy, information literacy, and visual

literacy—that traditional composition classes may not fully address.

Students today often communicate through platforms that combine text, images, sound, and video. Teaching writing, therefore, means more than just focusing on grammar or essay organization. It involves understanding audience engagement across diverse media and mastering tools that enable creative expression.

Implications for Composition Curriculum

The end of composition studies as a standalone discipline suggests that writing instruction might be better integrated across various subjects and media formats. Instead of isolated writing courses, educators could emphasize writing as a fundamental skill woven into STEM, humanities, and arts subjects alike.

This approach aligns with the concept of writing across the curriculum (WAC), which promotes writing as a tool for learning in all disciplines. It also highlights the necessity to prepare students for real-world communication challenges, where clarity, adaptability, and critical thinking are paramount.

Changing Pedagogies: From Prescriptive to Empowering Approaches

Traditional composition studies often followed prescriptive methods, focusing on rules and formulas to produce “correct” writing. But as the field evolved, writing pedagogy shifted towards more student-centered and process-oriented approaches. This change reflects a broader cultural understanding that writing is a social act, influenced by context, purpose, and audience.

Process Writing and Collaborative Learning

Modern writing instruction emphasizes drafting, revising, peer review, and reflection. These strategies empower students to see writing as iterative and collaborative rather than a one-time product. Encouraging multiple drafts and feedback loops not only improves writing quality but also builds critical thinking skills.

Critical Literacy and Writing for Social Justice

Another important shift has been the incorporation of critical literacy—teaching students to analyze and challenge power structures through

writing. This approach connects writing instruction to broader social and political issues, encouraging learners to become active participants in societal conversations.

With the possible end of traditional composition studies, these pedagogical innovations might find new homes in interdisciplinary courses, community-based learning, or digital storytelling workshops, fostering both skills and social awareness.

Challenges Facing Composition Studies

Despite its rich history and ongoing contributions, composition studies face several hurdles that contribute to the narrative of its decline.

- **Institutional Marginalization:** Writing programs often struggle for funding and recognition compared to other departments, leading to reduced resources and visibility.
- **Standardized Testing Pressures:** Emphasis on standardized assessments can limit creative and critical writing opportunities in favor of formulaic responses.
- **Faculty Precarity:** Many writing instructors are contingent or adjunct faculty, affecting program stability and innovation.
- **Relevance Concerns:** Critics argue that traditional composition courses don't adequately prepare students for contemporary communication demands.

These challenges prompt a reconsideration of how writing instruction is structured within higher education and beyond.

What Comes After? The Future of Writing Education

Rather than viewing the end of composition studies as a death knell, it can be seen as an evolution towards more integrated, flexible, and responsive writing education.

Integration with Digital and Media Studies

As writing increasingly intersects with digital platforms, fields like media studies, communication, and information science may absorb many composition study functions. This integration supports teaching writing not just as text production but as a component of broader media literacy.

Personalized and Adaptive Learning

Technological advancements enable personalized writing instruction tailored to individual student needs. AI-driven tools, adaptive learning platforms, and automated feedback systems can supplement human teaching, providing more immediate and customized support.

Community Engagement and Real-World Writing

The future might also see a stronger emphasis on community-based writing projects, internships, and service learning, connecting students with authentic audiences and purposes outside the classroom. Writing becomes a means of civic engagement and social change rather than an abstract academic exercise.

Reflections on the End of Composition Studies

While the phrase "the end of composition studies" might evoke concern or nostalgia, it is important to recognize that disciplines naturally evolve. The core mission of composition—helping people communicate effectively and thoughtfully—remains vital. What changes is how, where, and why we teach writing.

For educators, this moment offers an opportunity to innovate, break down disciplinary silos, and embrace the complexities of modern communication. For students, it means learning to navigate a rapidly changing landscape where writing is just one of many modes of expression.

Ultimately, the end of composition studies as a traditional academic field may well signal the beginning of a richer, more dynamic era for writing education—one that reflects the diverse ways people create meaning in the 21st century and beyond.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does 'the end of composition studies' refer to?

The phrase 'the end of composition studies' refers to debates and discussions about the possible decline, transformation, or dissolution of the academic field focused on teaching writing and rhetoric, often in response to changes in technology, pedagogy, and institutional priorities.

Why are some scholars claiming the end of composition studies?

Some scholars argue that composition studies is ending due to shifts toward digital communication, the integration of writing instruction into other disciplines, budget cuts in humanities, and challenges to traditional pedagogical models, which collectively threaten the field's distinct identity and sustainability.

How has technology impacted composition studies?

Technology has significantly impacted composition studies by changing how writing is produced, taught, and assessed. Digital tools, multimedia composition, and online platforms have expanded the scope of writing but also challenge traditional classroom practices and require new literacies.

Is the end of composition studies a consensus among educators?

No, there is no consensus. While some educators see the end or transformation of composition studies as inevitable, many argue the field is evolving rather than ending, adapting to new contexts, technologies, and student needs.

What role does interdisciplinarity play in the future of composition studies?

Interdisciplinarity is increasingly important as composition studies intersects with fields like digital humanities, rhetoric, communication, and cultural studies, suggesting that the discipline may transform by integrating diverse perspectives rather than ending outright.

How are composition studies programs adapting to contemporary challenges?

Programs are adapting by incorporating digital literacy, multimodal composition, inclusive pedagogies, and community engagement, as well as emphasizing critical thinking and adaptability to prepare students for diverse writing contexts.

What implications does the 'end of composition studies' have for writing instructors?

If composition studies were to end or transform significantly, writing instructors might face changes in job roles, curricular focus, and institutional support, requiring them to adapt their teaching methods and possibly collaborate more across disciplines.

Can the field of composition studies survive the changing academic landscape?

Many believe that composition studies can survive by evolving to meet contemporary demands, embracing technological advancements, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and reaffirming the importance of writing as a critical skill in academia and beyond.

Additional Resources

The End of Composition Studies: Navigating a Transforming Academic Landscape

the end of composition studies has become a topic of considerable debate among educators, scholars, and policymakers in recent years. Once a cornerstone of English departments and a fundamental aspect of higher education curricula, composition studies now faces unprecedented challenges and transformations that suggest its traditional form may be nearing a conclusion. This shift prompts critical questions about the future of writing instruction, the evolving role of digital literacy, and the changing demands placed on students and educators alike.

Understanding the Shift in Composition Studies

Composition studies, historically focused on teaching writing as a skill set encompassing rhetoric, grammar, and essay construction, has been a vital academic discipline since the mid-20th century. Its purpose was clear: to equip students with the ability to communicate effectively through written language. However, the academic field has not remained static. Over the past decades, the rise of digital media, changing student demographics, and shifting educational priorities have catalyzed a reevaluation of what writing instruction should entail.

The phrase "the end of composition studies" does not necessarily imply the disappearance of writing instruction altogether but rather signals the end of a particular era – one where composition was taught as a discrete, uniform discipline. Instead, writing education is increasingly integrated across disciplines, emphasizing multimodal literacy and digital communication over traditional essay writing.

Digital Transformation and Its Impact

One of the most significant drivers behind the transformation of composition studies is the digital revolution. The ubiquity of smartphones, social media platforms, and content creation tools has reshaped how people write and communicate. According to a 2023 Pew Research Center report, over 85% of college students engage in some form of digital writing daily, from social media posts to collaborative documents.

This shift challenges traditional composition pedagogy, which often centers around academic essays and formal writing. Educators now face the task of teaching students how to navigate and produce effective content across diverse digital formats, including blogs, podcasts, video scripts, and social media campaigns. Consequently, the curriculum must adapt to develop digital literacy skills alongside conventional writing competencies.

Changing Educational Priorities and Institutional Pressures

Another factor contributing to "the end of composition studies" is the evolving landscape of higher education itself. With increasing pressure on universities to demonstrate practical outcomes and employability, there is a growing emphasis on STEM fields and professional skills. Writing programs, particularly those housed within English departments, are often seen as less directly tied to career outcomes.

Data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) highlights a decline in enrollment in humanities courses, including composition, by nearly 15% over the past decade. This trend has led many institutions to cut back on dedicated composition courses or embed writing instruction within broader disciplinary contexts rather than maintaining standalone programs.

Reimagining Writing Instruction

In light of these challenges, educators and scholars are reimagining the future of writing pedagogy. The traditional model of composition studies—characterized by a focus on the five-paragraph essay, grammar drills, and standardized assessments—is being reconsidered in favor of more flexible, student-centered approaches.

Multimodal and Multiliteracy Approaches

Modern composition pedagogy increasingly embraces multimodal literacy, which recognizes that writing is no longer confined to print text. Students are

encouraged to combine text, images, video, and audio to create compelling, contextually relevant communication. This approach aligns with contemporary communication practices and prepares students for real-world challenges.

Multiliteracy frameworks also emphasize cultural and linguistic diversity, acknowledging that students bring varied backgrounds and communicative styles to the classroom. By valuing these differences, writing instruction becomes more inclusive and dynamic, moving beyond one-size-fits-all methodologies.

Interdisciplinary Integration

The integration of writing instruction into other academic disciplines reflects a broader trend toward interdisciplinarity in higher education. Subjects like science, business, and engineering increasingly incorporate writing components tailored to their specific genres and audiences. This shift benefits students by contextualizing writing within their fields of study, enhancing relevance and motivation.

Such integration, however, raises concerns about the dilution of composition studies as a distinct field. The specialized expertise of composition scholars risks being overshadowed by disciplinary faculty who may lack formal training in writing pedagogy.

Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

The transformation of composition studies carries both challenges and opportunities. Understanding these nuances is essential for educators, institutions, and students navigating this evolving terrain.

Challenges

- **Resource Allocation:** Reduced funding and institutional support for composition programs threaten the quality and availability of writing instruction.
- **Standardization vs. Flexibility:** Balancing the need for consistent writing standards with the flexibility to incorporate digital and multimodal literacies.
- **Faculty Expertise:** Ensuring that instructors possess the necessary skills to teach emerging forms of writing and literacy.
- **Assessment Difficulties:** Developing fair and effective assessments for multimodal and digital compositions remains complex.

Opportunities

- **Innovative Pedagogy:** The end of traditional composition studies opens doors for creative teaching methods that better reflect contemporary communication practices.
- **Enhanced Student Engagement:** Incorporating diverse media and real-world contexts can increase student motivation and learning outcomes.
- **Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration:** Writing instruction embedded across disciplines fosters collaboration and reinforces writing as a universal skill.
- **Technology Integration:** Leveraging digital tools can personalize learning and provide immediate feedback, enhancing skill development.

Looking Forward: The Evolution Rather Than the End

While some may frame these developments as signaling the "end" of composition studies, it is perhaps more accurate to view them as a significant evolution. The discipline is shedding its traditional form to become more responsive to the demands of the 21st century. Writing instruction remains essential, but it must be agile, interdisciplinary, and technologically savvy.

Institutions that recognize and adapt to these changes are likely to offer students more relevant and impactful learning experiences. Conversely, clinging to outdated models risks marginalizing composition studies and failing to prepare students for the diverse communicative challenges they will face beyond academia.

The trajectory of composition studies suggests a future where writing education is no longer confined to isolated courses but integrated holistically across the curriculum, enriched by digital innovation and cultural inclusivity. In this light, the "end" may be less a termination and more a transformative rebirth within the broader educational ecosystem.

The End Of Composition Studies

the end of composition studies: The End of Composition Studies David W Smit, 2004 Setting

forth an innovative new model for what it means to be a writing teacher in the era of writing across the curriculum, *The End of Composition Studies* urges a reconceptualization of graduate work in rhetoric and composition, systematically critiques the limitations of current pedagogical practices at the postsecondary level, and proposes a reorganization of all academic units. David W. Smit calls into question two major assumptions of the field: that writing is a universal ability and that college-level writing is foundational to advanced learning. Instead, Smit holds, writing involves a wide range of knowledge and skill that cannot be learned solely in writing classes but must be acquired by immersion in various discourse communities in and out of academic settings. *The End of Composition Studies* provides a compelling rhetoric and rationale for eliminating the field and reenvisioning the profession as truly interdisciplinary—a change that is necessary in order to fulfill the needs and demands of students, instructors, administrators, and our democratic society.

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the end of composition studies: *Exploring Composition Studies* Kelly Ritter, Paul Kei Matsuda, 2012-04-30 Kelly Ritter and Paul Kei Matsuda have created an essential introduction to the field of composition studies for graduate students and instructors new to the study of writing. The book offers a careful exploration of this diverse field, focusing specifically on scholarship of writing and composing. Within this territory, the authors draw the boundaries broadly, to include allied sites of research such as professional and technical writing, writing across the curriculum programs, writing centers, and writing program administration. Importantly, they represent composition as a dynamic, eclectic field, influenced by factors both within the academy and without. The editors and their sixteen seasoned contributors have created a comprehensive and thoughtful exploration of composition studies as it stands in the early twenty-first century. Given the rapid growth of this field and the evolution of its research and pedagogical agendas over even the last ten years, this multi-vocal introduction is long overdue.

the end of composition studies: *Academic Advancement in Composition Studies* Richard C. Gebhardt, Barbara Genelle Smith Gebhardt, 2023-04-28 This volume deals with a number of related issues that are becoming increasingly crucial for English studies during this time when most faculty in the field are assistant professors approaching tenure review or associate professors seeking promotion. These critical issues focus on: * The diversity of research and scholarly publication in composition studies; * The fact that composition studies faculty are often evaluated by personnel committee members, department chairs, and deans unfamiliar with the nature and demands of the field; * The way that American higher education is rethinking scholarship and the role it plays in the work and evaluation of faculty members; and * The role composition studies faculty can play in this review of scholarship and professional advancement. This book seeks to address the entire spectrum of composition studies -- expository and argumentative writing, personal essay, literary nonfiction, technical and business writing, historical rhetoric, empirical research, and more -- by understanding the nature of and evaluating the work of faculty members in this broad field. Scholarship and advancement issues are discussed in a variety of situations including basic and regular first-year composition classes at four-year and two-year institutions or writing centers, advanced writing courses, ESL and skills-development programs, and writing classes and programs for teachers,

administrators, and researchers. The chapters focus on a variety of subjects, including the importance of mentoring and faculty development in all departments and institutions; and how young scholar-teachers and assistant professors can prepare for a successful personnel or tenure review.

the end of composition studies: Composition, Creative Writing Studies, and the Digital Humanities Adam Koehler, 2017-01-26 In an era of blurred generic boundaries, multimedia storytelling, and open-source culture, creative writing scholars stand poised to consider the role that technology-and the creative writer's playful engagement with technology-has occupied in the evolution of its theory and practice. *Composition, Creative Writing Studies and the Digital Humanities* is the first book to bring these three fields together to open up new opportunities and directions for creative writing studies. Placing the rise of Creative Writing Studies alongside the rise of the digital humanities in *Composition/Rhetoric*, Adam Koehler shows that the use of new media and its attendant re-evaluation of fundamental assumptions in the field stands to guide Creative Writing Studies into a new era. Covering current developments in composition and the digital humanities, this book re-examines established assumptions about process, genre, authority/authorship and pedagogical practice in the creative writing classroom.

the end of composition studies: Postcomposition Sidney I Dobrin, 2011-06-02 Leading a burgeoning self-critical moment in composition studies and writing program administration, *Postcomposition* is a fundamental reconsideration of the field that attempts to shift the focus away from pedagogy and writing subjects and toward writing itself. In this forceful and reasoned critique of many of the primary tenets and widely accepted institutional structures of composition studies, Sidney I. Dobrin delivers a series of shocks to the system meant to disrupt the pedagogical imperative and move beyond the existing limits of the discipline. Dobrin evaluates the current state of composition studies, underscoring the difference between composition and writing and arguing that the field's focus on the administration of writing students and its historically imposed prohibition on theory greatly limit what can be understood about writing. Instead he envisions a more significant approach to writing, one that questions the field's conservative allegiance to subject and administration and reconsiders writing as spatial and ecological. Using concepts from *ecomposition*, spatial theory, network theory, complexity theory, and systems theory, *Postcomposition* lays the groundwork for a networked theory of writing, and advocates the abandonment of administration as a useful part of the field. He also challenges the usefulness of rhetoric in writing studies, showing how writing exceeds rhetoric. *Postcomposition* is a detailed consideration of how posthumanism affects the field's understanding of subjectivity. It also tears at the seams of the contingent labor problem. As he articulates his own frustrations with the conservatism of composition studies and builds on previous critiques of the discipline, Dobrin stages a courageous-and inevitably polemical-intellectual challenge to the entrenched ideas and assumptions that have defined composition studies.

the end of composition studies: Composition Studies in the New Millennium Lynn Z. Bloom, Donald A. Daiker, Edward Michael White, 2003

the end of composition studies: *The Politics of Writing Studies* Robert Samuels, 2017-09-07 A friendly critique of the field, *The Politics of Writing Studies* examines a set of recent pivotal texts in composition to show how writing scholarship, in an effort to improve disciplinary prestige and garner institutional resources, inadvertently reproduces structures of inequality within American higher education. Not only does this enable the exploitation of contingent faculty, but it also puts writing studies—a field that inherently challenges many institutional hierarchies—in a debased institutional position and at odds with itself. Instead of aligning with the dominant paradigm of research universities, where research is privileged over teaching, theory over practice, the sciences over the humanities, and graduate education over undergraduate, writing studies should conceive itself in terms more often associated with labor. By identifying more profoundly as workers, as a collective in solidarity with contingent faculty, writing professionals can achieve solutions to the material problems that the field, in its best moments, wants to address. Ultimately, the change

compositionists want to see in the university will not come from high theory or the social science research agenda; it must come from below. Offering new insight into a complex issue, *The Politics of Writing Studies* will be of great interest to writing studies professionals, university administrators, and anyone interested in the political economy of education and the reform of institutions of higher education in America.

the end of composition studies: *Digital Reading and Writing in Composition Studies* Mary R. Lamb, Jennifer M. Parrott, 2019-03-13 As digital reading has become more productive and active, the lines between reading and writing become more blurred. This book offers both an exploration of collaborative reading and pedagogical strategies for teaching reading and writing that reflect the realities of digital literacies. This edited scholarly collection offers strategies for teaching reading and writing that highlight the possibilities, opportunities, and complexities of digital literacies. Part 1 explores reading and writing that happen digitally and offers frameworks for thinking about this process. Part 2 focuses on strategies for the classroom by applying reading theories, design principles, and rhetorical concepts to instruction. Part 3 introduces various disciplinary implications for this blended approach to writing instruction. What is emerging is new theories and practices of reading in both print and digital spaces—theories that account for how diverse student readers encounter and engage digital texts. This collection contributes to this work by offering strategies for sustaining reading and cultivating writing in this landscape of changing digital literacies. The book is essential for the professional development of beginning teachers, who will appreciate the historical and bibliographic overview as well as classroom strategies, and for busy veteran teachers, who will gain updated knowledge and a renewed commitment to teaching an array of literacy skills. It will be ideal for graduate seminars in composition theory and pedagogy, both undergraduate and graduate; and teacher education courses, and will be key reading for scholars in rhetoric and composition interested in composition history, assessment, communication studies, and literature pedagogy.

the end of composition studies: *The Origins of Composition Studies in the American College, 1875-1925* John C. Brereton, 1996-01-15 This volume describes the formative years of English composition courses in college through a study of the most prominent documents of the time: magazine articles, scholarly reports, early textbooks, teachers' testimonies—and some of the actual student papers that provoked discussion. Includes writings by leading scholars of the era such as Adams Sherman Hill, Gertrude Buck, William Edward Mead, Lane Cooper, William Lyon Phelps, and Fred Newton Scott.

the end of composition studies: *Keywords in Writing Studies* Paul Heilker, Peter Vandenberg, 2015-02-15 *Keywords in Writing Studies* is an exploration of the principal ideas and ideals of an emerging academic field as they are constituted by its specialized vocabulary. A sequel to the 1996 work *Keywords in Composition Studies*, this new volume traces the evolution of the field's lexicon, taking into account the wide variety of theoretical, educational, professional, and institutional developments that have redefined it over the past two decades. Contributors address the development, transformation, and interconnections among thirty-six of the most critical terms that make up writing studies. Looking beyond basic definitions or explanations, they explore the multiple layers of meaning within the terms that writing scholars currently use, exchange, and question. Each term featured is a part of the general disciplinary parlance, and each is a highly contested focal point of significant debates about matters of power, identity, and values. Each essay begins with the assumption that its central term is important precisely because its meaning is open and multiplex. *Keywords in Writing Studies* reveals how the key concepts in the field are used and even challenged, rather than advocating particular usages and the particular vision of the field that they imply. The volume will be of great interest to both graduate students and established scholars.

the end of composition studies: *Style and the Future of Composition Studies* Paul Butler, Brian Ray, Star Medzerian Vanguri, 2020-11-02 *Style and the Future of Composition Studies* explores style's potential for informing how students are taught to write well and its power as a tool for analyzing the language and discourse practices of writers and speakers in a range of contexts. Many

college writing teachers operate under the belief that style still refers primarily to the kinds of issues discussed in Strunk and White's popular but outdated book *The Elements of Style*. This work not only challenges this view but also offers theories and pedagogies from diverse perspectives that help teachers and students develop strategic habits and mindsets to negotiate languages, genres, and discourse conventions. The chapters explore the ways in which style directly affects—and is affected by—multiple sources of shifting disciplinary inquiry, contributing new insights by drawing on research in cultural studies, sociolinguistics, discourse studies, translingualism, and writing across the curriculum, as well as new approaches to classical rhetorical theory. The reemergence of stylistic inquiry can be used dynamically to produce new insights not only about emerging disciplinary interests but also about the study of style as a kind of language in and of itself. *Style and the Future of Composition Studies* demonstrates that style deserves to be a central focus of writing teaching. More than just the next style collection, the book advocates for style's larger prominence in composition discussions generally. It will be of interest to a broad range of students and scholars of writing studies, as well as a wider set of readers in academe. Contributors: Cydney Alexis, Laura Aull, Anthony Box, Jimmy Butts, Mike Duncan, William FitzGerald, Melissa Goldthwaite, Eric House, TR Johnson, Almas Khan, Zak Lancaster, Eric Leake, Andrea Olinger, Thomas Pace, Jarron Slater, Jonathan Udelson

the end of composition studies: *Theories of Creative Writing Studies* Ge Hongbing, 2025-08-15 This book provides a groundbreaking approach to creative writing theory, offering a comprehensive exploration of its core principles and methodologies. Focusing on creative writing as an ontological practice, it redefines the essence of literature and writing, while integrating new perspectives on AI-assisted writing, creative industries, and writing pedagogy. This work combines Chinese and global views to address the pressing need for a systematic theoretical framework in the field of creative writing. It is intended for graduate students, researchers, and educators in creative writing, literary studies, and cultural industries. The book offers valuable insights into the evolving landscape of creative writing theory and its application in education, industry, and culture. Key features include its original theoretical framework, an interdisciplinary approach that connects theory and practice, and the exploration of AI's impact on creative writing. This book is a must-have resource for advancing both academic and practical understanding of creative writing.

the end of composition studies: *Arts-Based Research Methods in Writing Studies* Kate Hanzalik, 2021-02-09 As the arts become an increasingly popular pedagogical tool in writing studies, *Arts-Based Research Methods in Writing Studies* offers scholars and educators in the field ways to leverage the arts for their own scholarship through the practice of arts-based research (ABR). Tailored to the needs of writing studies scholars, this concise guide presents ways of exploring and addressing unresolved research questions from the past as well as new, pressing questions that are emerging in light of increasingly fraught and complicated current contexts. It explores motives and methods for taking up ABR, sheds light on the processes of representing research and the ethical imperative of methodological disclosure, and looks critically at the complexities of fully realizing ABR in writing studies while offering some pedagogical applications. Connecting theory to practice, this book also performs ABR through a co-created mixed-media text about the everyday and extraordinary stories woven into the fabric of new American artists' composing processes. *Arts-Based Research Methods in Writing Studies* lends itself to insight that is at once personal for writing studies researchers, useful for research communities, and a catalyst for social change beyond institutional walls; as such, it will be an important resource for scholars, educators, and graduate students in writing studies and those interested in multimodal, multilingual, and translingual learning; equitable pedagogies and administrative practices; online writing instruction; transnational literacies; research methods; community-based research; and disability studies in composition.

the end of composition studies: *Bibliographic Research in Composition Studies* Vicki Byard, 2009-10-02 *Bibliographic Research in Composition Studies* is a student-friendly guide to how knowledge is constructed and disseminated in composition studies, as well as a thorough handbook

on how to conduct bibliographic research in the discipline. Student readers are taught Stephen North's taxonomy of scholarship, empirical research, and practice so that they can better contextualize the sources they read, and they learn the unique ways that some genres of publication function in composition studies. The book also leads students through the entire process of completing a bibliographic assignment.

the end of composition studies: The Managerial Unconscious in the History of Composition Studies Donna Strickland, 2011-07-11 In this pointed appraisal of composition studies, Donna Strickland contends the rise of writing program administration is crucial to understanding the history of the field. Noting existing histories of composition studies that offer little to no exploration of administration, Strickland argues the field suffers from a "managerial unconscious" that ignores or denies the dependence of the teaching of writing on administrative structures. *The Managerial Unconscious in the History of Composition Studies* is the first book to address the history of composition studies as a profession rather than focusing on its pedagogical theories and systems. Strickland questions why writing and the teaching of writing have been the major areas of scholarly inquiry in the field when specialists often work primarily as writing program administrators, not teachers. Strickland traces the emergence of writing programs in the early twentieth century, the founding of two professional organizations by and for writing program administrators, and the managerial overtones of the "social turn" of the field during the 1990s. She illustrates how these managerial imperatives not only have provided much of the impetus for the growth of composition studies over the past three decades but also have contributed to the stratified workplaces and managed writing practices the field's pedagogical research often decries. *The Managerial Unconscious in the History of Composition Studies* makes the case that administrative work should not be separated from intellectual work, calling attention to the interplay between these two kinds of work in academia at large and to the pronounced hierarchies of contingent faculty and tenure-track administrators endemic to college writing programs. The result is a reasoned plea for an alternative understanding of the very mission of the field itself.

the end of composition studies: Establishing Creative Writing Studies as an Academic Discipline Dianne Donnelly, 2011-11-15 This book advances creative writing studies as a developing field of inquiry, scholarship, and research. It discusses the practice of creative writing studies, the establishment of a body of professional knowledge, and the goals and future direction of the discipline within the academy.

the end of composition studies: Decolonizing Rhetoric and Composition Studies Iris D. Ruiz, Raúl Sánchez, 2016-10-15 This book brings together Latinx scholars in Rhetoric and Composition to discuss keywords that have been misused or appropriated by forces working against the interests of minority students. For example, in educational and political forums, rhetorics of identity and civil rights have been used to justify ideas and policies that reaffirm the myth of a normative US culture that is white, Eurocentric, and monolingually English. Such attempts amount to a project of neo-colonization, if we understand colonization to mean not only the taking of land but also the taking of culture, of which language is a crucial part. The editors introduce the concept of epistemic delinking and argue for its use in conceptualizing a kind of rhetorical and discursive decolonization, and contributors offer examples of this decolonization in action through detailed work on specific terms. Specifically, they draw on their training in rhetoric and on their own experiences as people of color to help reset the field's agenda. They also theorize new keywords to shed light on the great varieties of Latinx writing, rhetoric, and literacies that continue to emerge and circulate in the culture at large, in the hope that the field will feel more urgently the need to recognize, theorize, and teach the intersections of writing, pedagogy, and politics.

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the end of composition studies: The Naylor Report on Undergraduate Research in Writing Studies Dominic DelliCarpini, Jenn Fishman, 2020-04-03 The Naylor Report on Undergraduate Research in Writing Studies combines scholarly research with practical advice for practitioners of undergraduate research in writing studies, including student researchers, mentors, and program administrators. Building upon the 1998 Boyer Commission Report, Reinventing Undergraduate Education, this book provides insight into the growth of undergraduate research over the last twenty years. Contributors demonstrate how undergraduate research serves students and their mentors as well as sponsoring programs, departments, and institutions. The Naylor Report also illustrates how making research central to undergraduate education helps advance the discipline. Organized in two parts, Part I focuses on defining characteristics of undergraduate research in writing studies: mentoring, research methods, contribution to knowledge, and circulation. Part II focuses on critical issues to consider, such as access, curriculum, and institutional support.

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