

**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**The Politics of Basic Writing: Mainstreaming At-Risk College Students**

The Conference on Basic Writing invites submissions of chapters for The Politics of Basic Writing: Mainstreaming At-Risk College Students. While the movement to mainstream basic writing students has been well received by many compositionists and rhetoricians, the trend to include underprepared students in first-semester writing courses is complicated by local and regional academic and political contexts and thus merits more careful study. While noteworthy contributions have already been made by such scholars as Peter Dow Adams, Peter Elbow, Edward White, David Bartholomae, Mary Soliday, Barbara Gleason, and many others, in this book we invite potential contributors to consider these and other issues surrounding mainstreaming:

**Historical contexts and precedents for tracking and/or mainstreaming underprepared students at the postsecondary level:** That is, what exactly is the history of the mainstreaming movement? What historical precedents can we look to in understanding the emergence of the mainstreaming movement? Both Peter Dow Adams, in his address to the 1992 Conference on Basic Writing, and Ira Shor, in his presentation at CBW's 1996 4Cs workshop, traced basic writing programs back to the purposeful stratification of immigrant children's education. The insights offered in those sessions bear further development and elaboration, and we welcome submissions on these topics.

**Considerations for the programmatic, institutional, and political implications of mainstreaming:** What programs are now undergoing radical revision as a result of the mainstreaming movement? How are those programs configured and in what ways are students being assessed to determine the success of their preparation for college-level writing? What local and statewide political contexts and dynamics are at work at this time in state legislatures and university-wide decision-making committees that precipitate the need to mainstream at-risk students?

**Context-specific considerations for mainstreaming:** What parameters work best in defining what we can expect to be successful mainstreaming for at-risk students in particular institutions, including open-admissions community colleges, four-year colleges, and universities? In what situations would mainstreaming work against the needs of our underprepared students?

**The politics of basic writing and mainstreaming as overall issues:** What are the criticisms of current basic writing programs that apply in specific ways to various programs? We have all read the debates surrounding the relative successes and failures of basic writing programs. In this book, we hope to bring together the many considerations surrounding the mainstreaming of underprepared students and to appreciate the many aspects that we as compositionists and writing program administrators need to scrutinize in examining our own basic writing programs.

Chapter submissions will be peer reviewed. Deadline for 500-word proposals is April 30, 1997. Deadline for chapter manuscripts will be August 1, 1997. Please direct all correspondence to one of us:

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# CBWS

## The Conference on Basic Writing Skills

CBWS is a new professional organization for teachers, researchers, and administrators in basic writing. Our purpose is to respond to the needs of this rapidly growing professional field. For too long, teachers and scholars across the country have worked in relative isolation, with far too little opportunity for professional growth and recognition. CBWS will be working to provide those opportunities.

A young organization, we have received strong support from CCCC and from people all over the country who have written for information, responded to our membership survey, and contributed time and money to help us get started. Yet while much has been accomplished, much more remains to be done. More than anything, we need your participation.

### READ

Your membership in CBWS includes a subscription to the highly regarded *Journal of Basic Writing*, published by the Office of Educational Resources at City University of New York. You will also receive a regular newsletter with feature stories, interviews, announcements of professional interest, and practical suggestions for the classroom.

### RESPOND

Our Annual Membership Survey gives you a chance to let us know what we can do to serve you better. It gives you a chance to volunteer for committee service, and it will give you a chance to see how your needs and interests correspond with those of your colleagues.

### GROW

Beginning this year, we also plan to sponsor a series of workshops and seminars which will allow teachers and scholars from around the country to consult with experts on research, program development and pedagogy.

### PARTICIPATE

As a CCCC special interest group, the Conference on Basic Writing Skills will play an active role at the annual conventions. Besides having our own session on the program, we will help the program chair to shape and coordinate the other basic writing sessions. These annual conventions will also provide the opportunity for the informal discussions, social gatherings and idea sharing so essential to a professional organization.

To join CBWS, please fill out and return the attached coupon, along with your check or money order for \$12.00 to:

CBWS  
c/o Charles F. Guilford  
Department of English  
Kansas State University  
Manhattan, KS 66506

**Yes, I'd like to join the Conference on Basic Writing Skills. Please enroll me as a charter member and enter or extend my subscription to *The Journal of Basic Writing*.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send me the first issue of the newsletter as soon as it is ready.

- Please send First Membership Questionnaire.
- \$12.00 annual membership fee enclosed.