

# **PLACING THE HISTORY OF COLLEGE WRITING:**

## **STORIES FROM THE INCOMPLETE ARCHIVE**



**Perspectives  
on Writing**

**Nathan Shepley**



**PERSPECTIVES ON WRITING**

Series Editors, Susan H. McLeod and Rich Rice

## PERSPECTIVES ON WRITING

Series Editors, Susan H. McLeod and Rich Rice

The Perspectives on Writing series addresses writing studies in a broad sense. Consistent with the wide ranging approaches characteristic of teaching and scholarship in writing across the curriculum, the series presents works that take divergent perspectives on working as a writer, teaching writing, administering writing programs, and studying writing in its various forms.

The WAC Clearinghouse and Parlor Press are collaborating so that these books will be widely available through free digital distribution and low-cost print editions. The publishers and the Series editor are teachers and researchers of writing, committed to the principle that knowledge should freely circulate. We see the opportunities that new technologies have for further democratizing knowledge. And we see that to share the power of writing is to share the means for all to articulate their needs, interest, and learning into the great experiment of literacy.

### Recent Books in the Series

- Theresa Lillis, Kathy Harrington, Mary R. Lea, and Sally Mitchell (Eds.), *Working with Academic Literacies: Case Studies Towards Transformative Practice* (2015)
- Asao B. Inoue, *Antiracist Writing Assessment Ecologies: An Approach to Teaching and Assessing Writing for a Socially Just Future* (2015)
- Beth L. Hewett and Kevin Eric DePew (Eds.), *Foundational Practices of Online Writing Instruction* (2015)
- Christy I. Wenger, *Yoga Minds, Writing Bodies: Contemplative Writing Pedagogy* (2015)
- Sarah Allen, *Beyond Argument: Essaying as a Practice of (Ex)Change* (2015)
- Steven J. Corbett, *Beyond Dichotomy: Synergizing Writing Center and Classroom Pedagogies* (2015)
- Tara Roeder and Roseanne Gatto (Eds.), *Critical Expressivism: Theory and Practice in the Composition Classroom* (2014)
- Terry Myers Zawacki and Michelle Cox (Eds.), *WAC and Second-Language Writers: Research Towards Linguistically and Culturally Inclusive Programs and Practices*, (2014)
- Charles Bazerman, *A Rhetoric of Literate Action: Literate Action Volume 1* (2013)
- Charles Bazerman, *A Theory of Literate Action: Literate Action Volume 2* (2013)

# PLACING THE HISTORY OF COLLEGE WRITING: STORIES FROM THE INCOMPLETE ARCHIVE

Nathan Shepley

The WAC Clearinghouse  
[wac.colostate.edu](http://wac.colostate.edu)  
Fort Collins, Colorado

Parlor Press  
[www.parlorpress.com](http://www.parlorpress.com)  
Anderson, South Carolina

The WAC Clearinghouse, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

Parlor Press, 3015 Brackenberry Drive, Anderson, South Carolina 29621

© 2016 by Nathan Shepley. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International.

ISBN 9781642150711 (pdf) | 9781642150728 (epub) | 9781602358010 (pbk.)

DOI 10.37514/PER-B.2015.0711

Produced in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Shepley, Nathan, 1981- author.

Title: Placing the history of college writing : stories from the incomplete archive / Nathan Shepley.

Description: Perspectives on writing. | Anderson, South Carolina ; Fort Collins, Colorado Parlor Press, [2016] | Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016001110 | ISBN 978-1-64215-071-1 (pdf) | ISBN 978-1-64215-072-8 (epub) | ISBN 9781602358010 (pbk. : alk. paper) | ISBN 9781602358027 (hardcover : alk. paper)

Subjects: LCSH: English language--Rhetoric--Study and teaching. | English language--Grammar, Generative--Study and teaching. | Report writing--Study and teaching (Higher)

Classification: LCC PE1403 .S56 2016 | DDC 808/.042071173--dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2016001110>

Copyeditor: Julia Smith

Designer: Mike Palmquist

Series Editor: Susan H. McLeod

The WAC Clearinghouse supports teachers of writing across the disciplines. Hosted by Colorado State University, it brings together scholarly journals and book series as well as resources for teachers who use writing in their courses. This book is available in digital format for free download at [wac.colostate.edu](http://wac.colostate.edu).

Parlor Press, LLC is an independent publisher of scholarly and trade titles in print and multimedia formats. This book is available in print and digital formats from Parlor Press at [www.parlorpress.com](http://www.parlorpress.com). For submission information or to find out about Parlor Press publications, write to Parlor Press, 3015 Brackenberry Drive, Anderson, South Carolina 29621, or email [editor@parlorpress.com](mailto:editor@parlorpress.com).

# CONTENTS

List of Illustrations . . . . .vii

Acknowledgments. . . . . ix

Chapter One. Placing History, Historicizing Place. . . . .3

Chapter Two. Customizing Composition: Students Broadening Behavioral Codes . . . . .25

Chapter Three. Tracking Lines of Communication: Student Writing as a Response to Civic Issues . . . . .51

Chapter Four. Composition on Display: Students Performing College Competence. . . . .77

Chapter Five. Rethinking Links Between Histories of Composition. . . . .95

Chapter Six. Composition as Literacy, Discourse, and Rhetoric . . . . .121

Works Cited . . . . .137

Glossary . . . . .149





# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1. Ohio University Class of 1873. ....32

Figure 2. *The Cougar*, April 1929 .....44

Figure 3. First page of Albert Farias’ “I Live in America,”  
*The Harvest*, 1941.....68

Figure 4. English Department of the Ohio University  
College of Education, *Athena*, 1923 .....107

Figure 5. English Department of the Ohio University  
College of Liberal Arts, *Athena*, 1923 .....109