## **Select Bibliography**

## **Patti Stock**

Several works in this "Select Bibliography" are annotated; those without annotations are discussed in this issue of **fforum** on the pages cited.

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Smith, Frank, Comprehension and Learning, New York: Holt, Rinehart, and fforum, pp. 55. (cont. on p. 92) which students must respond personally to an historical concept, character, or situation. He may ask, "If you were a citizen in 1800 and this were election day, who would receive your Presidential vote?" His students also read <u>Civil</u> <u>Disobediance</u> and write an essay on the dilemma of following conscience or authority.

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Steve VerSluis and Dave Reeves, another social studies teacher, require student journals as an important part of the work in their courses. The students transform daily notes, by filtering the notes through their own perceptions, into thoughtful, well-written, and well-organized essays. On Dave Reeves' desk one can find books on grammar and style in addition to historical reference books.

The ultimate proof of the serious approach these teachers take to composition is that like English teachers, they lug briefcases full of student writing out of school each night. Steve VerSluis sums it up when he says; "Writing is learning. In writing an idea, a person begins to understand it more fully." Dave Reeves follows through with his idea by offering two versions of his tests. On the multiple choice and short answer test the maximum grade is a **B**; if a student chooses the essay test, he may earn an **A**.

Though our plan to involve more teachers from other departments in our effort to spread Writing Across the Curriculum has developed slowly, students now realize that good writing skills mean better grades in all classes. They are aware of the attitude toward composition standards that is growing within the staff. Instructors often use composition not only to evaluate students' knowledge, but also to stimulate students' involvement and critical thinking about the subject matter. Indeed, at faculty meetings these days, when they hear a howl of protest about fragments, members of our department no longer look for cover; instead, we just figure we'll soon add another to our family of new writing teachers.

Max Slisher teaches English at Jenison High School, Jenison, Michigan.

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Bailey(cont. from p. 80)
has made considerable progress toward
implementing them.

To allow informed decisions as teachers develop a "policy for language," the Schools Council has supported studies of reading and writing. James Britton's Development of Writing Abilities (11-18), now generally known in America thanks to its distribution by NCTE, explores the functions of language as children develop in and out of school. (Britton was a member of the Bullock Committee.) Nancy Martin, Britton's colleague, subsequently completed a study of the effect of Writing Across the Curriculum, cautioning that a simplistic "language policy" would have little effect without a thorough evaluation of the role of language in learning. She identified the primary goal of schools as extending the