

The Elements of Teaching Writing: A Resource for Instructors in All Disciplines by Katherine Gottschalk and Keith Hjortshoj. Bedford/ St. Martin's, 2004. ISBN: 0312406835. This guidebook for teaching writing will interest the practitioner more than the composition theorist. Replete with classroom tips and suggestions and armed with a detailed table of contents and index, this book is ideal for instructors wishing to efficiently improve their writing assignments and grading practices. Although based on sound research, the book's breadth is more impressive than its depth. Subjects are treated cursorily but usefully in bulleted lists, text boxes, and summary paragraphs. Wondering what kind of feedback student writers want and need? Gottschalk and Hjortshoj provide the answer by summarizing (in four bullet points) an important Harvard study that showed “the most useful types of comments were”

- questions that stimulated further thought
- brief summaries of what the reader got out of the paper
- descriptions of difficulties the reader encountered
- even highly critical feedback that was constructive and respectful (53)

Such sensible and research-based advice appears in chapters as diverse as “Integrating Writing and Learning in Your Course Design,” “Teaching Writing at the Sentence Level,” and “Links Between Writing, Reading, Discussion, and Oral Presentation.” Aimed at teachers from all disciplines, this book hits the mark and will, no doubt, be useful to many faculty members as the emerging Quality Enhancement Plan turns some of our pedagogical attention to the worthwhile task of improving student writing. *The Elements of Teaching Writing* is available at various online booksellers for under \$20. Stephen Monroe, Department of English.