



What Is Good Writing?

By Geoffrey Huck

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Though we all think we know what good writing is when we see it, it's difficult to define it precisely; and without a satisfactory definition, it becomes problematical to assess as well as to teach. In *What Is Good Writing?*, Geoffrey J. Huck advances the contemporary debate on writing achievement by drawing on empirical research in linguistics and the other cognitive sciences that shed light on the development of fluency in language. The utility of defining "good writing" as "fluent writing" or writing that is on par with the typical fluency in speech attained by normal adults, is demonstrated by the progress it permits in evaluating the success of current writing programs in school and university--programs which, for the most part, have proved unable to deliver writing assessments that are both valid and reliable. Huck advances an alternative approach that rests on more scientific footing. He explains why reading is key to good writing and why standard composition programs often do not live up to their aspirations.

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Editorial Review

Review

"An eloquent piece of scholarship, grounded in cognitive science and linguistics, with the potential to change the field of composition studies." --William O'Grady, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

"Valuable for those interested in improving writing, especially those involved in writing programs."-- P. Palmer, *CHOICE*

About the Author

Geoffrey J. Huck is Associate Professor in the Writing Department at York University. He is co-author of *Ideology and Linguistic Theory: Noam Chomsky and the Deep Structure Debates* and co-editor of *Syntax and Semantics 20: Discontinuous Constituency*.

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