

## PREFACE FOR INSTRUCTORS



Fellow writing teachers,

I began my career in 1974 as a literature and composition teacher. In essence, I taught reading and writing. Before long I found myself at a school for journalists, and I learned more by matching my theories of the process against the practice of professional writers. The fifty strategies described in *Writing Tools* show the fruits of thirty years of reading, writing, and talking about the craft.

This is the book I wish I could have read when I was in college.

### BENEFITS OF THE BOOK FOR STUDENTS

- It offers fifty practical strategies essential to all writers in all genres and across media.
- It takes writing from the nuts-and-bolts level and connects it to the writer's higher mission and purpose.

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- It describes a critical vocabulary about writing, a shared lexicon for students and teachers.
- It demystifies the process by revealing writing as a set of tools, not rules.
- It encourages students to join a nation of writers.

BENEFITS OF THE BOOK  
FOR YOUR COURSE

- You can use it as a main text or as a supplement.
- You can teach it as a single unit or as individual lessons over the course of the semester.
- Your students can use the handy Quick List for reference while drafting or revising.
- You can choose from among two hundred workshop exercises, described at the end of each chapter, or tool.
- You can use the hundreds of examples of good writing in the book and add examples of your own.
- You and your students can use The Poynter Institute's Web site—[www.poynter.org/writingtools](http://www.poynter.org/writingtools)—for additional examples and new strategies.

I often visit via speakerphone those classes that have adopted *Writing Tools*. If you are interested in such a “visit,” contact me at [rclark@poynter.org](mailto:rclark@poynter.org).

Cheers on your dedication to students and your devotion to the craft.

Your colleague,

Roy Peter Clark