

To: Linda Brodkey / LDEPC

From: John Ruszkiewicz

Re: Anthologies for English 306.

I've come up with the following list of eight current anthologies that present a range of social/political issues for classroom discussion. The books are listed from best to least successful according to my assessment of their ability to both cover and balance controversial issues and situations. Rereading America, the book at the bottom of the list, provides the most thorough treatment of multi-cultural issues. But by its editors' own admission, Rereading America pursues a particular political agenda at the expense of alternative views. In the classroom, it would need to be conscientiously supported by supplementary texts--most of which would entail copyright problems.

1. Barnet, Sylvan, and Hugo Bedau. Current Issues and Enduring Questions: Methods and Models of Argument. 2nd ed. Boston: Bedford, 1989.
2. Hirschberg, Stuart. Strategies of Argument. New York: Macmillan, 1990.
3. Vesterman, William. The College Writer's Reader: Essays on Student Issues. New York: McGraw, 1989.
4. Otte, George, and Linda J. Palumbo. Casts of Thought. New York: Macmillan, 1990.
5. Hunt, Douglas. The Dolphin Reader. 2nd ed. Boston: Houghton, 1990.
6. Atwan, Robert. Our Times: Readings from Recent Periodicals. New York: Bedford-St. Martin's, 1989.
7. Madden-Simpson, Janet, and Sara M. Blake. Emerging Voices: A Cross-Cultural Reader. Fort Worth: Holt, 1990.
8. Colombo, Gary, Robert Cullen, and Bonnie Lisle. Rereading America: Cultural Contexts for Critical Thinking and Writing. New York: St. Martin's, 1989.