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MEMORANDUM

To: Freshman Policy Committee  
From: Gloria Gannaway  
Date: May 15, 1985  
Re: Variant 306 texts

I taught a variant of 306 which I called Writing, Cultural Literacy, and Problem-Solving. In addition to **The Conscious Reader**, I used three required texts: **Conceptual Blockbusting** by James Adams, **Dance Hall of the Dead** by Tony Hillerman, and **Lives of a Cell** by Lewis Thomas. I have used this combination before in other variants--one which I taught several times was a 308 Rhetoric and Logic--and find it to be very successful. Most all my students like these books very much (many tell me they recommend them to friends and want to read more by their authors) and see their relevance to the purpose of the course. The Adams teaches awareness of thinking processes and ways to improve including many fun and challenging exercises for in and out of class, some of which require writing. The Hillerman is a murder mystery with a model thinker for a hero. And the Thomas is a multi-faceted book by a multi-faceted model thinker who informs, puzzles, challenges, and provokes readers concerning the problems of the modern world. I strongly recommend this or any comparable series of books for a "writing" class--it gives plenty of stimulation for many types of essays and journals. My students wrote a tremendous amount and read 600 pages with no complaints!