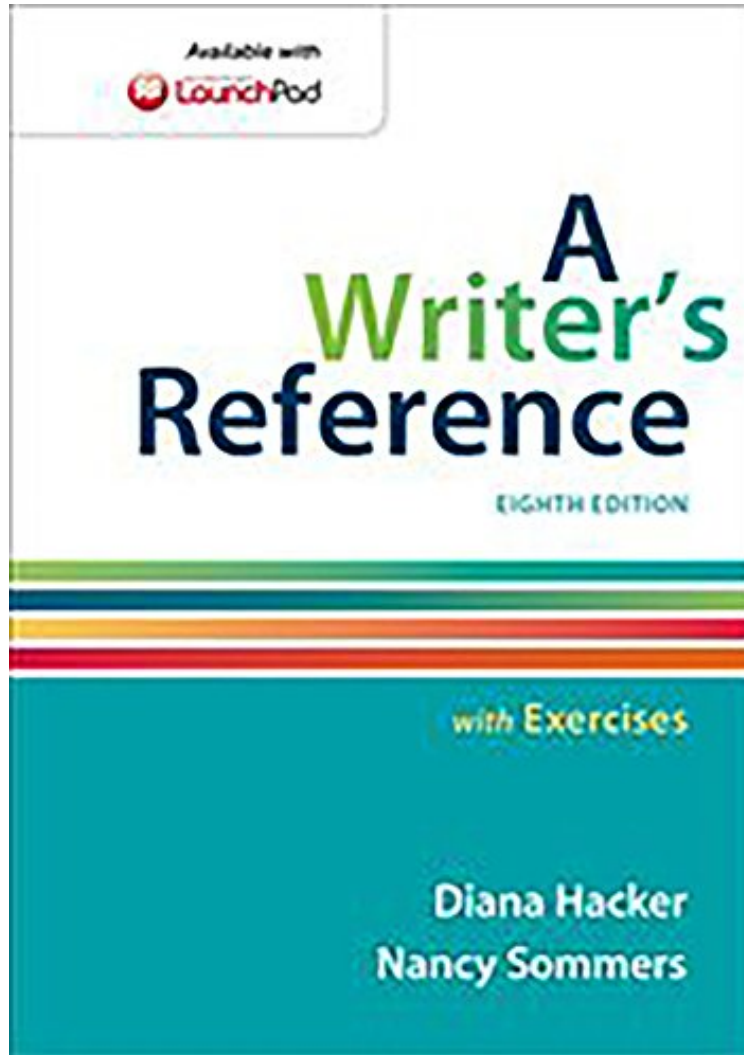


A Writer's Reference with Exercises

Diana Hacker, Nancy Sommers

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Diana Hacker, Nancy Sommers : A Writer's Reference with Exercises before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Writer's Reference with Exercises:

18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. The All-Time Bestselling College Textbook By Dr. C. J. Singh A Writer's Reference, Seventh Edition with Exercises By Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers. Reviewed by C. J. Singh (Berkeley, California). While teaching UC Berkeley's courses in "The Professional Sequence in Editing," I regularly assigned "The Harbrace Handbook" as a basic reference. At the suggestion of a former colleague, I agreed to take a look at his favorite, "The Bedford Handbook" and its compact version "A Writer's Reference." The first thing I noticed was its publisher's claim that the Bedford/A Writer's Reference is the all-time best-selling college textbook now. I had been introducing the Harbrace to my classes by quoting its publisher's identical claim. Sic gloria transit mundi (Thus

transits the glory of the world). After perusing the Bedford/A Writer's Reference, I agreed it was more user-friendly. For example, Harbrace's opening chapters on grammar introduce adjectival and adverbial clauses without adequate explanations, which discourages many students. Bedford/A Writer's Reference begins its grammar section with the traditional parts of speech; in contrast, Harbrace mentions "parts of speech" only in its Glossary of Terms at the very end of the book. Bedford/A Writer's Reference invites readers to visit its open-access website comprising: electronic writing exercises; electronic grammar exercises; electronic research exercise; resources for writers and tutors; model papers; research online, and language debates. This feature makes Bedford a truly amazing tool for self-learning. The seventh edition include exercises with solutions. The pages on Language Debates, I hope, will be enhanced in future editions. Too few entries; for example fewer/less usage issue is not mentioned. Moreover, Bedford makes no mention of The Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage, published in 1989, which comprises 2300 usage issues and 20,000 quotations from works, both classic and contemporary. On the fewer/less issue, the MW Usage book presents a detailed history, with a cheery endorsement of "less" with count nouns; for example, "Ten items or less" sign on the express lanes at supermarkets is perfectly acceptable. (No doubt the editors of the Bedford are aware of MW Usage book; however, the books they cite are much more prescriptive.) "A Writer's Reference, Seventh Edition with Exercises" is a beautifully designed compact version of "The Bedford Handbook, Seventh Edition." Both five-star books.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Writer's Reference By Susan Herbster This is an excellent reference for high school and college students who are writing Thesis and published texts for school or business. I used an earlier addition to write my own college paper and became an advisor to 40 other student papers. This edition is much better explaining proper footnotes, bibliographies, and proper computer references.

.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Reference for Students By Customer I originally rented this book from my college bookstore. I had the option to buy it at the end of the semester but no means of buying it, so I had to return it. One year later, I purchased a copy for myself. While these references are pricey (and there is a newer edition), it's an invaluable resource all throughout your academic career. It has the standard forms of citations and the explanations are easy to read. If you're expecting to write a lot of essays and papers because of your major: buy this book or one like it! Seriously, you're gonna need it.