TRAUMA AND THE TEACHING OF WRITING
Shane Borrowman, editor

Analyzing their own responses to national traumas, writing teachers question both the purposes and pedagogies of teaching writing.

"Writing teachers can help students to confront what has been called the 'posttraumatic age' in which we live. The topic is highly significant and, I fear, is bound to become more significant. That is, we seem to be living in an increasingly dangerous world, where we are threatened by both external (i.e., terrorists from other parts of the world) and internal enemies. Moreover, so many people, especially college students, suffer from psychological conflicts, including clinical depression, suicidal ideation, eating disorders, and drug and alcohol addiction—all of which contribute to a traumatic culture. This is one of the first books on what might be called the pedagogy of trauma." — Jeffrey Berman, author of Risky Writing: Self-Disclosure and Self-Transformation in the Classroom

Shane Borrowman is Assistant Professor of English at Gonzaga University.

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THE DAO OF RHETORIC

Steven C. Combs

Examines the ways Daoist (Taoist) thought may contribute to an understanding of human communication.

In the first book to systematically deal with Daoism (Taoism) from a rhetorical perspective, author Steven C. Combs advances the idea that the works of Daoist (Taoist) sages Laozi (Lao Tzu), Zhuangzi (Chuang Tzu), and Sunzi (Sun Tzu) can be fused into a coherent rhetorical genre, which can then form a methodology for rhetorical criticism. This notion of Daoist rhetoric enables critics to examine discourse from new vantage points with novel processes and concepts that honor the creativity and complexity of human communication. Combs also critically examines four contemporary films—The Tao of Steve, A Bug’s Life, Antz, and Shrek—to amplify rhetorical Daoism, to indicate clear differences between Western and Daoist values, and to offer fresh perspectives on individuals and social action. The book argues that Daoism provides a lens for viewing limitations of current Western rhetorical theorizing, positioning Daoist rhetoric as a potent critical perspective in the contemporary, postmodern world.

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Steven C. Combs is Associate Professor of Communication Studies at Loyola Marymount University.

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Jacqueline Rhodes

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Jacqueline Rhodes is Assistant Professor of English at California State University at San Bernardino.

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