



# The Lure of Literacy: A Critical Reception of the Compulsory Composition Debate

*Michael Harker*

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**The Lure of Literacy: A Critical Reception of the Compulsory Composition Debate** Michael Harker  
*Examines proposals for freshman composition's abolition and reform while providing a new model for courses.*

*The Lure of Literacy* promises to transcend the stale and unproductive debate on freshman composition that has gripped English studies for more than a century. It is the first book to chart the origin of the discussion from the early twentieth century to the advent of the New Literacy Studies. Michael Harker recontextualizes proposals to abolish compulsory composition and reimagines pedagogical conditions in English studies in order to present a different model for first-year writing. This new model for compulsory composition programs focuses on students' attitudes about composition and interrogates the very idea of literacy itself.

Michael Harker is Assistant Professor of English at Georgia State University.

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