Rhetoric and Composition

Rhetoric numbers among the oldest language arts: Homer's Iliad, for example, describes Achilles as both a "speaker of words" and a "doer of deeds." For most of the history of humanism and liberal arts, rhetoric lay at the center of the curriculum Aristotle, Cicero, Quintilian, Augustine, Boethius, Pizan, Erasmus, Castiglione, Bacon, Scudery, Vico, Nietzsche, and Burke are just some of the thinkers who have contributed to rhetorical theory over the last 2,500 years. In fact, the current absence of rhetoric from school curricula makes our period the exception rather the rule.

Composition emerged as a formal discipline only 50 years ago. Though English departments have taught composition since the nineteenth century, the work did not always attract scholarly inquiry. Beginning in the 1960s, however, writing teachers began an ambitious program of research and publication that eventually carved out an area for the study of student writing. The work now reaches far beyond the first-year writing course and includes the study of technical writing, professional writing, and other forms of public discourse. Because composition drew on the 2,500-year-old rhetorical tradition, the field has generally been called "rhetoric and composition."

1) Plato. Phaedrus, Gorgias, Protagoras, Republic
2) Aristotle. Rhetoric, Nicomachean Ethics, Politics
3) Isocrates. Against the Sophists; Antidosis.
4) Cicero. De Inventione and De Oratore
5) Quintilian. Institutio oratoria
6) Augustine. On Christian Doctrine
7) Erasmus. Desiderius, De Copia Verborum ac Rerum
8) Castiglione. The Book of the Courtier
9) Rebhorn. Wayne A. Renaissance Debates on Rhetoric
10) Golden and Corbett. The Rhetoric of Blair, Campbell, and Whately
11) Vico. On the Study Methods of Our Time
12) Bizzell, Patricia and Bruce Herzberg, Eds. The Rhetorical Tradition: Readings from Classical Times to the Present.
13) Jarratt, Susan C. Re-reading the Sophists: Classical Rhetoric Refigured
14) de Romilly, Jacqueline. Magic and Rhetoric in Ancient Greece
15) Enos, Richard Leo. Roman Rhetoric: Revolution and the Greek Influence
17) Walker, Jeffrey. Rhetoric and Poetics in Antiquity
18) Murphy, James J., Renaissance Eloquence: Studies in the Theory and Practice of Renaissance Rhetoric
19) ----. Rhetoric in the Middle Ages: A History of Rhetorical Theory from Saint Augustine to the Renaissance
20) Perelman and Olbrechts-Tyteca. The New Rhetoric
21) Burke, Kenneth. *Counter-Statement*
22) ---. *Attitudes Toward History*
23) ---. *Permanence and Change*
24) ---. *Rhetoric of Motives*
25) Ong, Walter J. *The Presence of the Word*
26) ---. *Ramus, Method, and the Decay of Dialogue: From the Art of Discourse to the Art of Reason*
27) Havelock, Eric. *Preface to Plato*
28) Booth. *Modern Dogma and the Rhetoric of Assent*
29) Glenn, Cheryl. *Rhetoric Retold: Regendering the Transition from Antiquity through the Renaissance*
33) Kitzhaber, Albert R. *Rhetoric in American Colleges*
34) Crowley, Sharon. *The Methodical Memory: Invention in Current-Traditional Rhetoric*
35) Elbow, Peter. *Writing Without Teachers*
37) Phelps, Louise Wetherbee. *Composition as a Human Science: Contributions to the Self-Understanding of a Discipline*
38) Miller, Susan. *Textual Carnivals: The Politics of Composition*
40) Kent, Thomas, Ed. *Post-process Theory: Beyond the Writing-process Paradigm*
41) Kirsch, Gesa and Patricia A. Sullivan, Eds. *Methods and Methodology in Composition Research*
42) Roberts-Miller. *Patricia Deliberate Conflict*
43) Crowley, Sharon. *Toward A Civil Discourse*
44) Crosshite, James. *The Rhetoric of Reason*
45) Faigley, Lester. *Fragments of Rationality: Postmodernity and the Subject of Composition*
46) Berlin, James. *Rhetorics, Poetics, and Cultures: Refiguring College English Studies*
47) Ohmann, Richard. *English in America: A Radical View of the Profession*
48) Sirc, Geoffrey. *English Composition as a Happening*
49) Wysocki, Anne Francis, et al. *Writing New Media: Theory and Applications for Expanding the Teaching of Composition*
50) Lanham, Richard. *The Electronic Word*