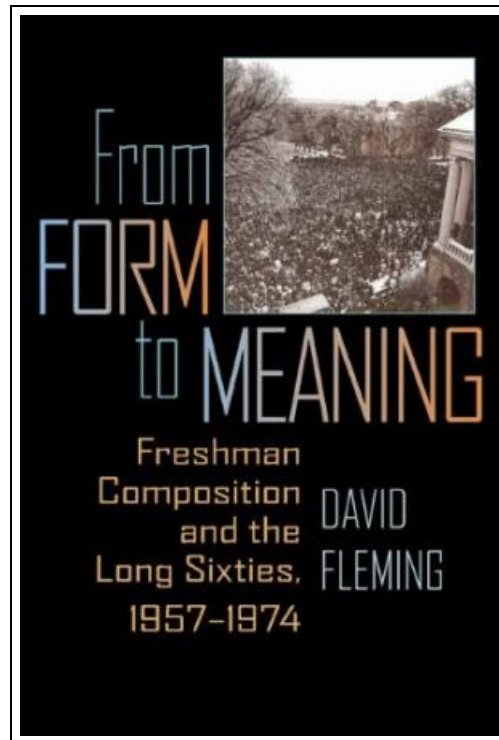


## From Form to Meaning: Freshman Composition and the Long Sixties, 1957-1974



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## FROM FORM TO MEANING: FRESHMAN COMPOSITION AND THE LONG SIXTIES, 1957-1974

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University of Pittsburgh Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, From Form to Meaning: Freshman Composition and the Long Sixties, 1957-1974, David Fleming, In the spring of 1968, the English faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW) voted to remedialize the first semester of its required freshman composition course, English 101. The following year, it eliminated outright the second semester course, English 102. For the next quarter-century, UW had no real campus-wide writing requirement, putting it out of step with its peer institutions and preventing it from fully joining the composition revolution of the 1970s. In "From Form to Meaning, " David Fleming chronicles these events, situating them against the backdrop of late 1960s student radicalism and within the wider changes taking place in U.S. higher education at the time. Fleming begins with the founding of UW in 1848. He examines the rhetorical education provided in the university's first half-century, the birth of a required, two semester composition course in 1898, faculty experimentation with that course in the 1920s and 1930s, and the rise of a massive current-traditional writing program, staffed primarily by graduate teaching assistants (TAs), after World War II. He then reveals how, starting around 1965, tensions between faculty and TAs concerning English 101-102 began to mount. By 1969, as the TAs were trying to take over the committee that supervised the course, the English faculty simply abandoned its long-standing commitment to freshman writing. In telling the story of composition's demise at UW, Fleming shows how contributing factors the growing reliance on TAs; the questioning of traditional curricula by young instructors and their students; the disinterest of faculty in teaching and administering general education courses were part of a larger shift affecting universities nationally. He also connects the events of this period to the long, embattled...

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