The idea for this collection of essays emerged from the First National Writing Centers Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1994. The conference provided a forum for writing center concerns, and the presentations proved so rich in insights that the Steering Committee members who had coordinated the conference decided that selected papers should be brought together and made into a book for the enrichment of writing center personnel everywhere.

This volume is also historically significant as the first book to be published by the NWCA Press, which was founded in 1995 as an outlet for writing center work within the academy as we approach the twenty-first century and its educational and ideological challenges.