

## A Summary of the Reading Selections

### Chapter One: The Writing Process

#### **“Getting Carded”** by David Migoya

The essay explores a rite of passage for most Americans, getting their first credit card. The author warns that the card, a symbol of maturity, has its dangers.

### Chapter Two: Illustration

#### **"Spanglish"** by Janice Castro, with Dan Cook and Cristina Garcia

The essay discusses the blending of English and Spanish, a widely accepted phenomenon inspired by increased immigration from Latin-American countries to the U.S. The essay offers several examples of Spanglish that Hispanic and Anglo speakers use daily.

### Chapter Three: Description

#### **"A Present for Popo"** by Elizabeth Wong

Wong's essay is a poignant memoir/testimonial to the author's grandmother, fading Chinese traditions, family responsibilities, and the lessons of humanity taught by a "little, 4-foot, 9-inch woman" who, until her death at age 91, was the only unifying link for three generations. The restoration of family unity is a tribute to her memory.

### Chapter Four: Narration

#### **“The Good Father”** by Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez

After overcoming a tumultuous childhood himself, the author's father becomes both mother and father to his own children. She thanks him with this essay which tells the story of her Cuban-born father.

### Chapter Five: Process

#### **"Breath of Life"** by Judith Sachs

After asserting that you can turn breathing into a meaningful twenty-minute activity that will help you get a deeper sense of yourself, Sachs describes the process of “creative breathing.” In this essay, Sachs demonstrates how you can take a vacation from stress by performing the “Breath of Life” exercise, the process of which she describes in the essay.

## Chapter Six: Comparison and Contrast

### **"Honesty and Dishonesty"** by Jo-Allen Dimitirus and Mark Mazzarella

This essay compares and contrasts the different kinds of liars, and it outlines the physical clues that occur when a person lies. The authors assert that honest people are relaxed and open in contrast to dishonest people who are not.

## Chapter Seven: Classification

### **"Three Disciplines for Children"** by John Holt

Holt, a noted educator, classifies ways children learn from the "Disciplines of Reality (experience), Culture (environment), and Superior Force (fear or harm)." Warnings about the third type of discipline are specific and especially relevant today.

## Chapter Eight: Definition

### **"Breaking the Bonds of Hate"** by Virak Khiev

A Cambodian immigrant gives his definition of "the American dream." Although America may offer better conditions than many immigrants have been accustomed to, the American dream for them is practically impossible to attain. Still, there is hope to "reach the other side of the mountain."

## Chapter Nine: Cause and Effect

### **"Students in Shock"** by John Kellmayer

College students are suffering from stress-related illnesses in alarming numbers, and schools are responding with increased support services. The detailed essay covers reasons for such widespread stress and special problems to deal with the dilemma.

## Chapter Ten: Argument

### **"Sidewalks Can Make a Town a Neighborhood,"** by Carolyn E. Vegan

In this essay, the author argues that the increasing lack of sidewalks hinder children from exploring their neighborhoods.

## Writing from Reading

### **"The Longest Day"** by Donna L. Walker

Living without a cell phone or iPod might make the average American feel disconnected from family and friends. Walker, a professor at American University, challenged her students to live without electronic devices including computers and televisions for twenty-four hours. In this article, Walker writes about how her students handled this "e-media fast," and what she and her students learned for the experience.

**"A Brother's Murder"** by Brent Staples

In grieving for his murdered brother, the author remembers other black youths who never made it alive out of their economically deprived neighborhood. He mourns for the young men for whom gunplay has become a part of everyday life.

**"Navajo Code Talkers: The Century's Best Kept Secret"** by Jack Hitt

Since Navajo had never been written down or translated into another language, it was a perfect choice for radio communication during World War II when the Japanese were able to break standard codes with ease. The Navajo Code Talkers translated military terms into words they knew from the reservation, a tank becoming a *turtle*, a hand grenade becoming a *potato*, and a fighter plane becoming a *hummingbird*. The United States won victories at several key points because of the secret communication these messages afforded our troops.