

which Apple has run for many years himself for his doctoral students, as well as other educational activists. The seminar is an opportunity to read each other's work, support each other's research and help plan cultural and political action and discussions. The product of this event is that it maintains a sense of community among educationalists and scholars and offers a way for them to critically appraise what is going on in education, and consider how to address existing politics of official knowledge. This is important in my view as it enables us to hear and debate different views and work for improved mainstream education systems which are democratic rather than structured around political and economic initiatives. Apple is highly supportive of public education and his book concentrates on important issues; reading about these certainly makes you reflect critically on teaching and learning, and think about how you might improve your own practice.

### **Success in Academic Writing**

**Trevor Day**

Palgrave Macmillan (2013)

Review by Carol Matthews

When this book landed on my desk I wondered 'Do we really need to add yet another student guide to academic writing to the mountain of such books?' Once I began reading I realised what an accessible and useful guide to academic writing this is. Its table of contents supplies all the chapters one expects; on researching, note-taking, planning, drafting and referencing. Nothing remarkable there. The book is remarkable, however, in two ways: accessibility and the inclusion in chapter two of Day's own IPACE method of understanding how to approach writing an assignment, developed in his role of writing coach.

The book's accessibility resides firstly in its conversational yet rigorous tone. Intended for undergraduates, it is designed to read more like a chat with a tutor than a formal text book. *Success in Academic Writing* can be read from cover to cover or 'dipped into' as the reader chooses; the stipulation being that one reads chapter one first. The processes of writing are related in clear, knowledgeable language. What really sets this guide apart from the rest of that mountain is Day's IPACE practical method of preparation for written assignments. Developed from Hickman and Jacobson's SPACE model of 1997, IPACE (identity, purpose, audience, code and experience) is a method of establishing authorial 'voice' by identifying the reasons for writing any particular task, what is being written, by and for whom in a very practical and innovative exercise.

Whether clarifying the reasons for formal academic writing, its nature and conventions, or explaining critical thinking and the art of composition, Day's practical experience and craftsmanship combine to make this a book that students and academics alike can return to time and again and never fail to learn something or find inspiration. Do we really need another guide to academic writing? In short: in this case, yes, we definitely do.