

## ABSTRACT

### ENTER THE MACHINE: A QUALITATIVE STUDY CRITICIZING CONTEXT IN BASIC WRITING

This qualitative study, conducted at California State University, Fresno in 2001, uses ethnography to first understand the ideological and educational backgrounds of entering freshmen, and second to understand how these combine with the context of basic writing to affect students who have been placed into the basic writing course. Ultimately, this study asserts that, in spite of positive changes in the pedagogy, curriculum, and in the attitudes of teachers of basic writing, the baseline basic writing course is still damaging to students in many complex ways because of its context. This study also asserts that new and innovative alternatives may better meet the needs of students.

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August 2003