Craft of Research
Chapter 2
Connecting with Your Reader
Class Talking Points
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Overview
• Creating roles for self & readers
  Communication as social activity
  What kinds of society relate to research?
  How do the 2 examples relate to your research writing?
• Understanding your role
  I've found some new & interesting information
  I've found a solution to an important practical problem
  I've found an answer to an important question
• Imagining your reader's role
  Entertain me
  Help me solve my practical problem
  Help me understand something better
• Writing in groups
  Keys to working together successfully
  Strategies to group work
  Managing inexperience

Creating roles for self & readers
Communication as social activity
What kinds of society relate to research?
How do the 2 examples relate to your research writing?
When would you do which?
Discuss situations you would do both
Two Ways of Writing about the Same Thing

1a. The control of cardiac irregularity by calcium blockers can best be explained through an understanding of the calcium activation of muscle groups. The regulatory proteins actin, myosin, tropomyosin, and troponin make up the sarcomere, the basic unit of muscle contraction.

1b. Cardiac irregularity occurs when the heart muscle contracts uncontrollably. When a muscle contracts, it uses calcium, so we can control cardiac irregularity with drugs called calcium blockers. To understand how they work, it is first necessary to understand how calcium influences muscle contraction. The basic unit of muscle contraction is the sarcomere. It consists of four proteins that regulate contraction: they are actin, myosin, tropomyosin, and troponin.

Understanding Your Role

What role/stance is appropriate for you to take in a class research paper?

When is each of the following roles appropriate?
What is needed for you to assume each role?
How do you frame each scenario?
- I've found some new & interesting information
- I've found a solution to an important practical problem
- I've found an answer to an important question

Imagining Your Reader's Role

How would you approach each of the following audiences?
When (in what situations) do you imagine each audience?
Which audience would you imagine for a ‘job talk’?
How would you frame your presentation/writing for each? What would you need in your preparation?
- Entertain me
- Help me solve my practical problem
- Help me understand something better
Writing in Groups

Keys to working together successfully
- Talk a lot (About what? Use an outline?)
- Agree to disagree (How do you manage disagreement?)
- Organize & plan (How do you handle the pragmatics of group work?)

Strategies to group work (When do you do which? What are advantages/disadvantages? How do you make each work?)
- Divide & delegate
- Work side by side
- Take turns

Managing Inexperience

Uncertainties & anxieties
- Writing along the way (What are the roles of notes? How do you use technology?)
- How does breaking process into steps help?
- What is the role of mentors? Who are they?