## Contents

N	ate t	o the Fourth Edition			X
Note to the Third Edition					xi
Note to the Second Edition					xii
In	tro	duction			1
1	Au	ithor and Audience			8
	1	The Professor as Audience			8
	2	The Student as Author			11
	3	Three Attitudes about Philosoph	nical Method		15
			The Use of Authority		
2	Lo	gic and Argument for Writ	ing and to asband off		17
	1	What is a Good Argument?			17
	2	Valid Arguments			21
	3	Cogent Arguments			31
	4	Quantification and Modality			35
	5	Consistency and Contradiction	Conciseness		40
	6	Contraries and Contradictories			43
	7	The Strength of a Proposition			46
16	-	uctions	oblems with Introd		8
3	Th	e Structure of a Philosophi	cal Essay		51
	1	An Outline of the Structure of a	Philosophical Essay		51
	2	Anatomy of an Essay	The Running Start		57
	3	Another Essay			63

## Contents

4	Co	mposing		67			
	1	How to Select an Essay	Topic	68			
	2	Techniques for Compos	ing	69			
	3	Outlining		70			
	4	The Rhetoric of Philoso	phical Writing	70			
	5	Successive Elaboration		72			
	6	Conceptual Note Taking		81			
	7	Research and Composin	ng	83			
	8	Sentences and Paragrap	hs	84			
	9	Polishing		87			
	10	Evolution of an Essay		89			
5	Ta	ctics for Analytic Wri	ting	101			
	1	Definitions		102			
	2	Distinctions		108			
	3	Analysis		111			
	4	Dilemmas		119			
	5	Scenarios		123			
	6	Counterexamples		125			
	7	Reductio ad Absurdum		132			
	8	Dialectical Reasoning		138			
6	So	ome Constraints on C	ontent	146			
	1	The Pursuit of Truth		146			
	2	The Use of Authority		147			
	3	The Burden of Proof		150			
7	So	me Goals of Form		152			
	50	ine doms of Form		132			
	1	Coherence		152			
	2	Clarity		156			
	3	Collegelless		162			
	4	rugui		165			
0	D.		7 The Strength of a Proposition	1/0			
8		Problems with Introductions 1					
	1	Slip Sliding Away		168			
	2	The Tail Wagging the Do		173			
	3	The Running Start	2 Anatomy of an Essay	175			

## Contents

9 How to Read a Philosophical Work				
1 Find the Thesis Sentence	181			
2 Precision of Words, Phrases, and Sentences	185			
3 Proving the Case	186			
Appendix A: "It's Sunday Night and I Have an Essay				
Due Monday Morning"				
Appendix B: How to Study for a Test				
Appendix C: Research: Notes, Citations, and References				
Appendix D: Philosophy Resources on the Internet,				
by Neil Sinhababu				
Appendix E: On Grading				
Appendix F: Glossary of Philosophical Terms				
Index				

I want to thank Leslie Martinich, who helped enormously with editing.