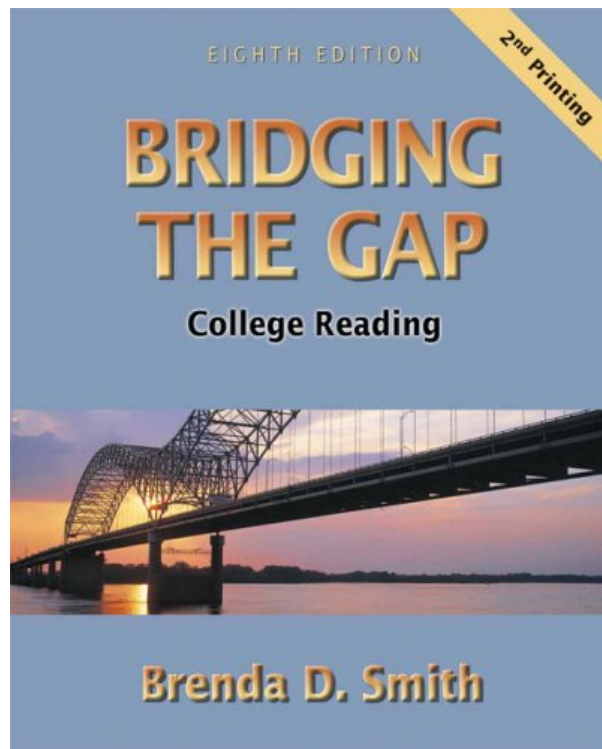
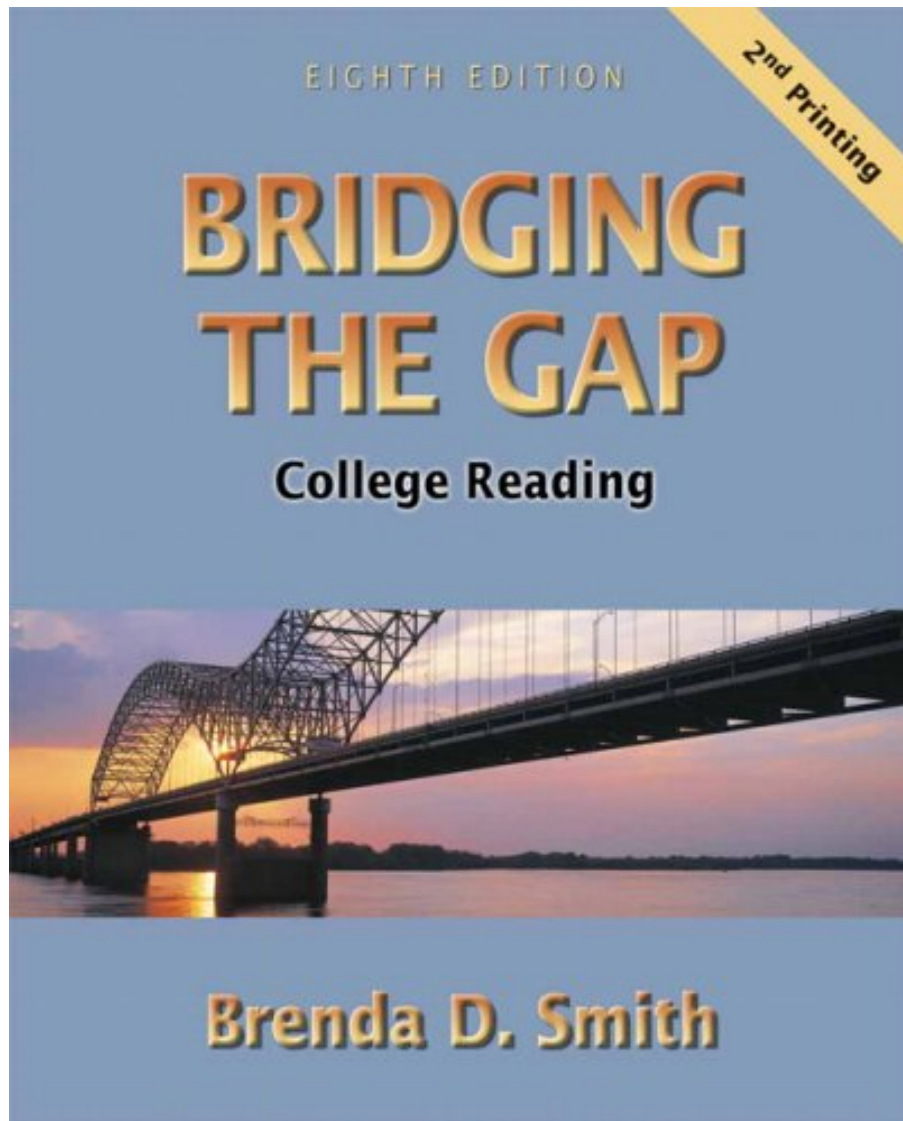


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"*Bridging the Gap*" was the first book to focus on how to read college textbooks. This college-level focus has since evolved to connect textbook readings to academic and everyday reading sources and represent three bridges of reading: text-to-text, text-to-world, and text-to-self.

About the Author

Brenda D. Smith, Professor Emeritus at Georgia State University, has more than 30 years of teaching experience. Her books have helped more than 100,000 students become better readers. Awarded with the "Outstanding Article in the Journal of Developmental Education" by the National Association of Developmental Educators two years in a row, and named "Distinguished Alumni Professor" by the Georgia State University Alumni Association, Dr. Smith continues to be recognized for her contributions to the field of reading skills.

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Most helpful customer reviews

18 of 18 people found the following review helpful.

A good book for getting to college level

By FrKurt Messick

We use this text for the supplemental/academic skills courses we offer at my community college, for those people whose reading skills are rusty for a number of reasons, including having been out of school for a number of years (sometimes as long as four or five decades), not having paid attention in class in high school, or other low-level literacy related reasons.

This book is well organised for a semester-long course that will bring out many of the critical skills necessary for doing college level work. Regardless of the discipline one goes into in college, one will have to

do reading - this is as true in the nursing school, the electronics/drafting programmes, the business skills areas as well as those going on to full-fledge four-year and onward college degrees.

The book begins by exploring issues in active learning and vocabulary, some of the key concepts necessary for comprehending easily what one is reading. From there, particular kinds of reading skills are emphasised - looking for the main idea, recognising patterns of organisation and flow, seeing different points of view in the text, and beginning practice with critical thinking and engagement skills.

Within each section, there are readings and essays designed to strengthen the points being emphasised. These come from a wide variety of sources and cover a lot of different topics, so that they are not all about any particular thing, but rather each student will most likely find something of interest along the way. Each section ends with a vocabulary booster piece, and the final chapter is a very useful guide of test-taking techniques and study tips.

I find the articles very interesting, and the questions developed for the various articles enhance my understanding (this despite the fact that I have, by comparison to the target audience for this text, a very advanced degree of reading capability). This is a popular book among the students who come into our tutoring centre; they have questions and need help with the various concepts, but most like the variety of selections. One particular favourite is the essay entitled 'Monkey Love', by James V. McConnell, that gives a brief history of the Harlow experiments with young monkeys and surrogate mother figures. Essays on terrorism, women in history, low-carb pizza, media influences, Malcolm X (and his story about learning to read), and other pieces relevant to our current culture make reading less of a chore and more of a pleasure, which is key to getting students to progress through the material. The pages are colourful and interesting to look at from a graphic/visual standpoint, which also aids in the learning process.

The title 'Bridging the Gap' is very appropriate, given the task is to bridge the gap between high school (however long ago that was for many students) and college-level reading they will shortly encounter after taking this class.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

AWESOME!

By Athena

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