

To the Student

Congratulations! If you are reading this book, you have probably entered a college program, you are preparing to enter a college program, or you are thinking about entering a college program. In any case, you are making an important decision: to continue your education at a higher level. You may be training for a specific career, or you may want to get a higher degree so that you have more choices in the job market. Whatever your reasons, and wherever you are, you should be very proud of how far you have come in your education. This is especially true if English is not your native language. Not everyone can understand another language well enough to use it at the college level. If you have come this far in your education, you are already successful!

You should also realize that your journey isn't over yet. In fact, it is just beginning. College is very different from high school. The work is harder, and there is more of it. The speed is different; more material is covered in less time. And in large classes, professors may not notice if you need additional help. It will be entirely your responsibility to make sure you are keeping up with assignments and understanding the material. Your success in college depends mostly on you.

You may have attended high school—or even taken college classes—in a different country. If you have, this book will help you to understand how North American classrooms and assignments may be a little different from what you are used to. For example, some people are surprised that professors expect students to speak a lot in class, and to discuss their opinions. Some people don't realize that the structure of essays and paragraphs may be different from what is used in other countries. (For example, do you state the main idea of an essay at the beginning or at the end?) Some people don't understand the types of comments that professors may write on their papers, or the requirements of different types of assignments. *Strategies for College Success* helps you to recognize the most common types of assignments and activities that you will find in first-year college classes.

In addition, this book will help you to learn important study skills that will help you to do well in your college classes. You will learn strategies for improving your reading, writing, listening, and speaking. You will learn how to take good notes from readings and from lectures, how to take tests, and how to study. You will also gain an understanding of your personal learning style, and the study strategies that work best for *you*.

College isn't only about the material that you learn from your textbooks and lectures. A lot of learning in college takes place outside the classroom. When you make a decision to enter a college, you become part of a community—an *academic community*. As a member of this community, you suddenly have access to a lot of information and many resources. This book will introduce you to a few of those resources. You will also learn about how to communicate with your professors, where to find help if you need it, and how you can plan your time. Most important, you will learn about *the language and culture of college*.

After reading this book and practicing the strategies, you should know what to expect in a North American college classroom. You should recognize and have practiced some common types of assignments and activities. Above all, you should feel more confident in your ability to succeed in your classes and to participate in an academic community.