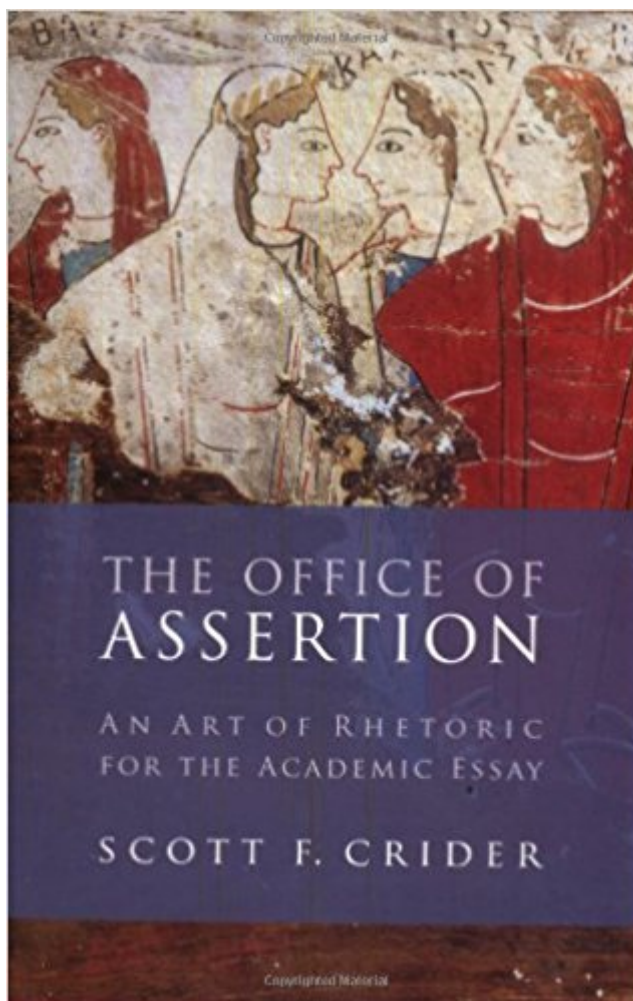


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# Office Of Assertion: An Art Of Rhetoric For Academic Essay



## Synopsis

Scott F. Crider addresses the intelligent university student with respect and humor. A short but serious book of rhetoric, it is informed by both the ancient rhetorical tradition and recent discoveries concerning the writing process. Though practical, it is not simply a how-to manual; though philosophical, it never loses sight of writing itself. Crider combines practical guidance about how to improve an academic essay with reflection on the purpose--educational, political, and philosophical--of such improvement.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Mr. Crider’s Office of Assertion is the best guide to the writing of essays that I have ever seen, in many years of college and university teaching at Columbia and Dartmouth. It is designed for good students at either of those levels. It goes beyond the essential preliminaries to the elements that produce a genuinely good writer, and, far from being dogmatic, it is exploratory and immensely practical.”  
—Jeffrey Hart, Professor of English Emeritus at Dartmouth College and author of *Smiling Through the Cultural Catastrophe: Toward the Revival of Higher Education*  
“Scott Crider has done what I thought impossible: he has found the strong elements of current composition theory and folded them into crisp, cogent account of traditional rhetoric. The result is a brief, lucid, yet thorough introduction to rhetoric for students, as well as a handy refresher for their professors.”  
—R.V. Young, Professor of English, North Carolina State University  
“In *The Office of Assertion: the Art of Rhetoric* Scott Crider has

written a brief, elegant text on a topic all too often treated esoterically. He adjures readers, in a reference to Wendell Berry, to “stand by their words, proceeding to demonstrate the way in which clarity and conviction, logos and lexis, can be welded together in soul-leading.” The process makes of rhetoric a liberal art as well as a formidable instrument of persuasion. Particularly helpful is his chapter on revision, in which he makes clear that style is no mere decoration but a final result of both insight and labor. Though primarily intended for college students charged with creating that “small universe” of the academic essay, *The Office of Assertion* becomes in the end a guide to truthful utterance on all levels, with skill in language leading to fuller participation in culture and a nobler concept of the human.

• Louise Cowan, Professor of English, University of Dallas, co-author of *Invitation to the Classics*

**Author Bio:** Scott F. Crider is Associate Professor of English at the University of Dallas, where he teaches courses in advanced composition and classical rhetoric. He has written extensively on Shakespeare and the English renaissance and is at work on a volume titled *With What Persuasion: An Essay on Shakespeare and the Ethics of Rhetoric*.

Many books have been written on the topic of writing. Still more have been written on the topic of rhetoric. I've read a handful of each, and I can confidently say that this book is one of the better ones I've read. The strengths of this book are many. I'll list only a few: 1. It is clear, concise, and precise. 2. It is neither superfluous nor pedantic (if you don't know what those words mean, you'll have no trouble reading this book!). 3. It is a great example of the author's own instructions I could go on. To conclude: This is the perfect book to read if you're looking for a brief but serious rhetoric. It abounds with very helpful--and much needed--instruction for refining one's academic essay from start to finish. Although it was written primarily for undergraduate students, even graduates can profit from this book. So if you're soon to enter college, read this book! If you're going on to graduate school and want to refine your writing skills, read this book! If you just like reading and you want to read a fine example of the office of assertion, read this book!

I was delighted to find in such a tiny book such a wealth of useful information. Crider is an academic with a soul. His selection of Homer, in particular, was stylish and psychologically useful as well as technically appropriate. A harmony that results from discipline, that's what good writing is about. Crider shows you the way by encouraging the reader to write his own truth as he/she sees it. The

caveat is this: Your truth should convey an "image of a writer who is intelligent, but not pretentious, well educated but not pedantic, and able to relax without becoming slack and slovenly" (p.75). In short, a soul leading style in a soulful little book.

Don't hesitate if you are thinking about buying this. Just do it. I promise you will not be disappointed. This is one of the finest little books on writing. Dr. Crider has taken the essence of classical rhetoric and condensed it into just over a hundred pages. This man is a genius; he also practices what he preaches in his beautiful invention, organization, and style that he uses in his wonderful book. I believe, if the world is just, this book is, like Strunk and White's useful book has become, destined to be a classic that will be taught ages and ages hence. Scott Crider has done Academia a great service in writing this book and deserves some type of award, e.g. best academic book of the year. Beautiful book. I have read it three times, and each time I found new and subtle gems.

Great text introducing the reader to the art of academic rhetoric and writing. This will help the college student with practical instruction on writing for an academic audience.

I am using this as a college rhetoric text. I am very pleased with the organization and the readability of Crider's text. The examples embedded in short, numbered sections provide deep structure analysis in digestible bites. Five stars!

Ty

Every serious student in middle school, high school and college should have a copy of this book

Deep read. Takes some time to digest so move slowly through it. Great Book!

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