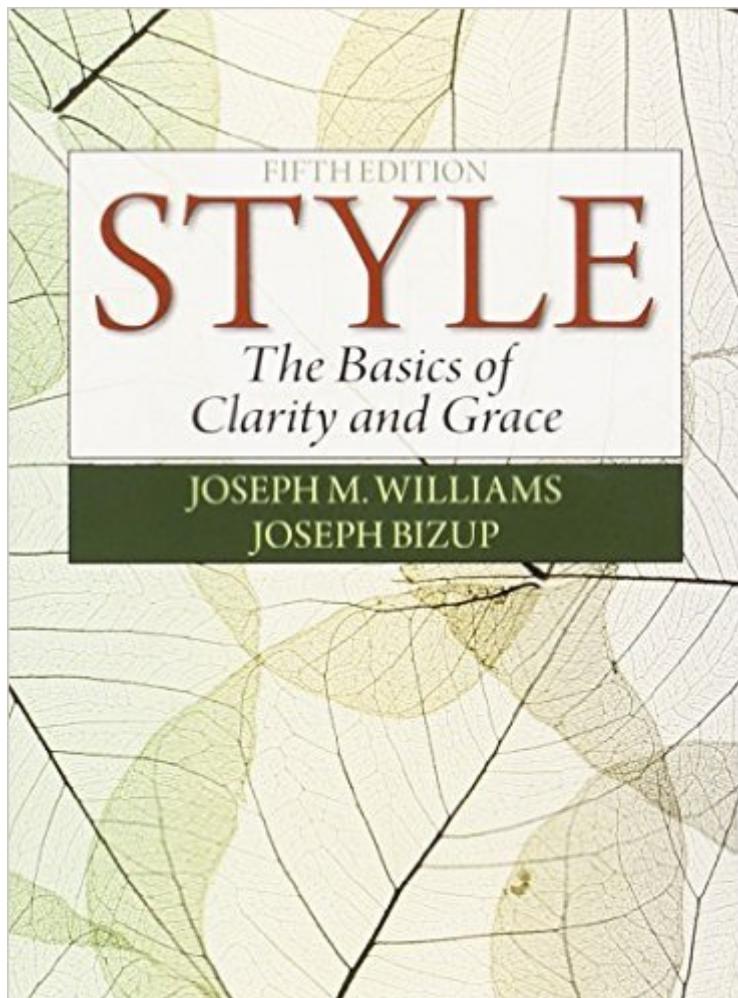


The book was found

Style: The Basics Of Clarity And Grace (5th Edition)



Synopsis

Style: The Basics of Clarity and Grace reflects the wisdom and clear authorial voice of Williams' best-selling book, Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace, while streamlining every chapter to create a very brief, yet powerfully direct guide to writing with style. The concise clarity of this book makes it a handy reference for anyone interested in good writing--as well as a quick and ideal guide for freshman composition courses, writing courses across the disciplines, and as a supporting text in courses that require clear and direct writing. Style: The Basics covers the elemental principles of writing that will help students diagnose the strengths and weaknesses of their prose quickly and revise effectively. The text features principles of effective prose written in Williams' hallmark conversational style, offering reason-based principles, rather than hard and fast rules, for successful, effective writing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is an abridged version and the price is almost the same. I see no reason to buy this book, instead of the full version. The title is deceptively the same: Instead of "The Basics," but "Lessons". In the Preface of this book, they basically suggest you to buy the full version. I bought the book by mistake and felt deceived. I called, returned, and bought the full version.

The book is fantastic. Hardly thicker than Strunk&White, it couldn't be more different. Real advice, understandable explanations, illuminating examples, and a wide scope of relevant topics.

Refreshingly, Williams eschews trite pearls of wisdom; he in fact devotes ample space to educate the reader about counterexamples to classical dogma, cases where opinions rehashed by venerated authorities really hurt. Yes, short sentences are great, but if you can't write a long sentence that's also understandable, you're like a composer who cannot produce anything but jingles. Yes, using an active voice makes your writing more forceful and direct, but you will surprisingly often encounter situations where a passive construction is significantly preferable, for it eases the flow of information. (Besides, being forceful and direct is not always a virtue.) And yes, you're on a good path if you can write good sentences, but if you can't create cohesion between them, and coherence over a whole paragraph, your writing will remain opaque. I'm even in the target audience of the book: it's not written for poets, it's for people who need to communicate information (academics, journalists, but probably foremost: college students learning how to write essays). Hence, many examples are not too far away from what I deal with on a day-to-day basis, when writing grants, papers, or referee reports. The book closes with a beautiful reminder to those who don't know why to bother with good writing, when there's so much terrible writing going around. I quote: "What experienced readers know, and you eventually will, is that clear and graceful writers are so few that when we find them, we are desperately grateful. They do not go unrewarded." If that's no motivation to care, then I don't know what is. There's so much in this book that I loved—lessons, attitude, motivation, and more—that I can confidently recommend it to anyone who cares to improve their writing. What I don't know yet, though, is whether the longer version of the book, *Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace*, is even better, or says the same in more words and on more pages. But I will find out!

My graduate adviser got me this book while preparing my masters thesis. It's short enough that it doesn't look intimidating. The tone really feels like having a conversation with the author. It's peppered with abundant examples, occasionally getting a little meta by doing something and then saying "See what I did there?" to make a point. It's not hard or burdensome to read. The last couple chapters are of little use unless you're already a decent writer, but are nice to have. Pretty stellar book overall.

Clear, consistent, repetitive, cohesive text with many perspectives and samples both supporting and contrasting the principles presented. Each section incorporates and builds on the previous.

Perfect condition, useful light-weight book. Perfect for carrying.

It is good

Good

Style: The Basics is a good source for learning to write well and to the point.

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