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## Foreword

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## Foreword: The 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition

With the publication of Volume V, we commemorate a landmark year for *ESSAI, The College of DuPage Anthology of Academic Writing Across the Curriculum*. It has been five years since we first began publishing some of the best academic writing done by C.O.D. students. To mark the occasion, we present this new volume where we share our students' enduring eloquence and fresh scholarship as a testament to their rhetorical appeal and felicity and their intellectual and moral development and attainment.

As in the past, this volume continues to include multi-disciplinary selections such as expository and reflective essays, literary and film criticisms, research projects, and science and technology reports, accomplished during the 2006-2007 academic year. We believe readers will find much to admire in the writing that follows. It is our hope that this volume will become a good resource for both students and instructors. We also hope that this volume will add to the enriching dialogue – among students and instructors – about writing as a vital part of the academic experience at the College of DuPage. In this sense, we are pleased to publish our instructors' thoughts on writing in this volume.

In keeping with our editorial tradition, we would like to offer a few brief words on the anthology name and the selection rubric. First, the name *ESSAI* derives from Michel de Montaigne, who, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, created a new literary form called “essais.” To Montaigne, essays were “attempts” or “trials,” a means of testing his response to different subjects and situations. And it is to him that we owe our tradition of college essay writing. Reflecting Montaigne's seminal design and our philosophy of the writing across the curriculum at all levels of learning, our *ESSAI* witnesses the “trials” and “attempts” of our students' minds as they engage with various issues and assignments.

Outlined below is the rubric we have applied in making the selections. Papers are deemed exemplary if they:

- ❖ Are completed according to assignments' purposes.
- ❖ Have mechanics, grammar, and other technical points in place.
- ❖ Are imaginative, creative, logical, and risk-taking with respect to assignments' purposes.
- ❖ Exhibit clarity of writing with respect to purposes.
- ❖ Follow the disciplinary format.
- ❖ Include relevant literature reviews where required.
- ❖ Demonstrate analytical abilities.
- ❖ Generate interest.

Join with us in congratulating these student writers. And look forward to Volume VI of *ESSAI* which will be issued in 2009. Thank you for your readership. It is your interest and support that help to keep our anthology growing.

The *ESSAI* Editorial Board:

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