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New Directions is a thematic reading/writing book aimed at the most advanced learners. It prepares students for the rigors of college-level writing by having them read long, challenging, authentic readings. This emphasis on multiple longer readings as a precursor to writing gives New Directions its distinctive character. Each of the five topic-based chapters contains three core readings and five additional readings. The readings come from a variety of genres and are accompanied by exercise material, including tasks that enhance critical reading skills. A handbook reference section on the essentials of writing is set in the center of the book on colored pages for ease of access. Students can work through this section for their first writing assignment, and refer to this thorough treatment of the writing process for subsequent major assignments.