

# TECHNE, FROM NEOCLASSICISM TO POSTMODERNISM: UNDERSTANDING WRITING AS A USEFUL, TEACHABLE ART

KELLY PENDER

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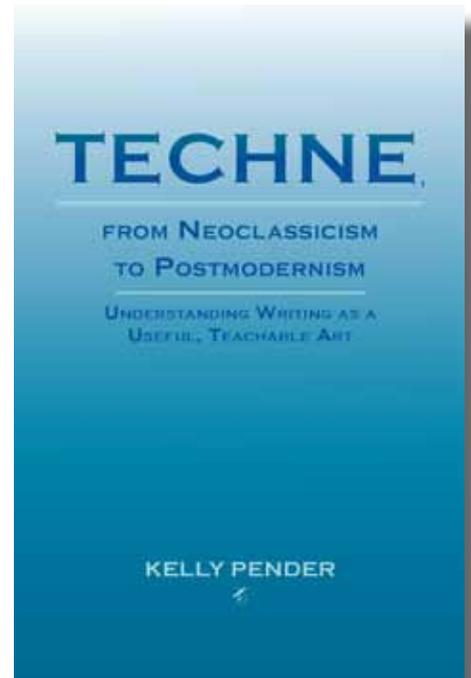
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The word *techne* has no equivalent in English and so is usually understood as one of the three terms that approximate its original Greek meaning: art, skill, craft. As a kind of productive knowledge, *techne* is often defined by its close association with rationality and instrumentality. *Techne, from Neoclassicism to Postmodernism: Understanding Writing as a Useful, Teachable Art* is a book about the relationships among the many meanings of this complex term. Kelly Pender tells the story of *techne's* presence in the development of rhetoric and composition as an academic discipline in the mid-twentieth century, the influence of postmodern theory on that development, and what is often taught or not taught under the rubric of "writing" in contemporary composition courses.

Pender's final provocative suggestion—that it is precisely through the apparent opposition between "closed" and "open" that writing itself has been marginalized within the writing classroom—is an extraordinarily insightful point, one that deserves serious consideration within the rhetoric and composition community.

—John Muckelbauer, author of *Invention and the Future: Rhetoric, Postmodernism, and the Problem of Change*

KELLY PENDER holds a PhD in English from Purdue University. She is an assistant professor of English at Virginia Tech, where she teaches courses in professional writing, public discourse, critical theory, and classical rhetoric. She has presented papers at numerous conferences, and her work has appeared in journals such as *Postmodern Culture*, *Composition Studies*, and *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*.



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