

Public Review

Title: *Alternatives to Agonism: Ethical Approaches to Argument in the Composition Classroom*

Author: Kristina Fennelly

Reviewer: Moe Folk

Dr. Fennelly's textbook is an incredible resource for students in all levels of rhetoric and composition courses. The textbook provides valuable guidance in multiple aspects of connecting with an audience and engaging in ethical argumentation with that audience. More importantly, it helps students build critical thinking skills by focusing on one of the most nebulous concepts of writing for college students—how to shape content for an intended audience. While other textbooks cover that topic by focusing on prescriptive advice detached from reality, Dr. Fennelly foregrounds the human connection between writers and their audiences, thereby helping student writers to empathize with—and understand—the audience in a deep way. By providing a comprehensive look at argument and audience in 2025, the textbook covers an essential topic for our polarized times.

Reviewer Bio: Dr. Moe Folk is a Professor in the English Department at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. He teaches a range of courses in composition, technical writing, digital rhetorics, and social media studies. His work has appeared in variety of academic journals, and his most recent publication is a textbook on technical writing for PA-ADOPT.