Contents

Preface and Acknowledgments	ix	
Introduction: A Call for Other V	Vays of Reading	3

Part 1. A Rhetorical View

- 1. In Search of Rivers: Womanist Writers and the Essay 17
- 2. Toward an Analytical Model for Literacy and Sociopolitical Action 42

Part 2. A Historical View

- 3. The Genesis of Authority: When African Women Became American 77
- 4. Going Against the Grain: The Acquisition and Use of Literacy 108
- 5. From This Fertile Ground: The Development of Rhetorical Prowess 176

Photographic Essay: African American Women Rhetors, When and Where They Enter 239

Part 3. An Ideological View

 A View from a Bridge: Afrafeminist Ideologies and Rhetorical Studies 251

Appendix 1. Some Early African American Women Contributors, Editors,
Publishers, and Owners of Periodical Publications 289

Appendix 2. Some Early Periodical Publications with Which African American
Women Writers Were Associated 295

Notes 297 Bibliography 307 Index 327