

READING FOR THE CONVERSATION

Alexander Lowe McAdams | FWIS 105: Fall 2020



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“The trick in reading for the conversation is to figure out *what views the author is responding to* and *what the author’s own argument is*—or, to put it in the terms used in this book, to determine the “they say” and how the author responds it.”

—TSIS, p. 175

DECIPHERING THE CONVERSATION

If ever there were a newspaper headline custom made for Jay Leno's monologue, this was it. Kids taking on McDonald's this week, suing the company for making them fat. Isn't that like middle-aged mending Porsche for making them get speeding tickets? Whatever happened to personal responsibility?

I tend to sympathize with these portly fast-food patrons, though. Maybe that's because I used to be one of them.

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Signal
word



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MORE EXAMPLES OF SIGNAL WORDS

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CONTRAST

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CAUSE/EFFECT

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- conversely
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CAUSE/EFFECT

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WHEN “THEY SAY” IS UNSTATED

“The first in her family to graduate from college.” How many times have we heard that phrase, or one like it, used to describe a successful American with a modest background? In today’s United States, a four-year degree has become the all-but-official ticket to middle-class security. But if your parents don’t have much money or higher education in their own right, the road to college—and beyond—looks increasingly treacherous. Despite a sharp increase in the proportion of high school graduates going on to some form of postsecondary education, socio-economic status continues to exert a powerful influence on college admission and completion; in fact, gaps in enrollment by class and race, after declining in the 1960s and 1970s, are once again as wide as they were thirty years ago, and getting wider, even as college has become far more crucial to lifetime fortunes.

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Express meaning of writer/speaker using different words, esp. to achieve greater clarity

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They say that if we cannot define 'woman,' feminism is in big trouble. But I say that this type of trouble is precisely what feminism needs.

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 - c. Do you find the author's signal words persuasive? Explain why or why not.

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 - a. Share some things that surprised you about the Greenwood
 - b. What did you learn?