This book contributes to the history of classical rhetoric by focusing on how key terms helped conceptualize and organize the study and teaching of oratory. David M. Timmerman and Edward Schiappa demonstrate that the intellectual and political history of Greek rhetorical theory can be enhanced by a better understanding of the emergence of “terms of art” in texts about persuasive speaking and argumentation. The authors provide a series of studies to support their argument. They describe Plato’s disciplining of dialogesthai into the art of dialectic, Isocrates’ alternative vision of philosophia, and Aristotle’s account of demegeoria and symboulē as terms for political deliberation. The authors also revisit competing receptions of the Rhetoric to Alexander. In addition, they examine the argument over when the different parts of oration were formalized in rhetorical theory, illustrating how an “old school” focus on vocabulary can provide fresh perspectives on persistent questions.

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CLASSICAL GREEK RHETORICAL THEORY AND THE DISCIPLINING OF DISCOURSE

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