



ACES Academic Enrichment Center

2019 Summer Enrichment Course Syllabus

Course Name: Nonfiction Reading-*National Geographic* and Memoirs for 4th-5th Graders

Course Description

Children like to read fiction because fiction tends to be more plot-driven and generally easier to follow. However, reading nonfiction helps develop vocabulary and research skills, adds to a student's background knowledge in a variety of subjects, and teaches them how to critically evaluate sources of information. Studies show that nonfiction reading promotes student success (*Education Leadership* Vol 70.4). This course will be an introductory course to encourage students to gain nonfiction-reading skills and to read nonfiction beyond the classroom. The course will focus primarily on reading science articles from *National Geographic* and excerpts from memoirs.

Course Objectives and Student Competencies

- Gain confidence, skills, and interest reading nonfiction material
- Become better researchers and gain vocabulary through reading more complex material

Class Structure

Class begins with a short discussion of readings done for homework and essay logs. We will study and discuss the articles and memoirs themselves relating them to themes and main ideas. We will read and discuss shorter articles and excerpts together while learning the structure of each material read.

Date	Topics	Homework
6/24	Discuss nonfiction writing in general, read excerpts of memoirs and articles from <i>National Geographic</i> classifying each into a category within nonfiction writing	Reading and Essay Log #1
6/25	Discuss the homework, focus on the memoir and the elements of a memoir	Reading and Essay Log #2
6/26	Discuss the homework, focus on nonfiction science articles from <i>National Geographic</i> and the components that make up science articles	Reading and Essay Log #3
6/27	Discuss the homework and concept of research, use a <i>National Geographic</i> article as evidence for an argument	Reading and Essay Log #4
6/28	Review the homework and practicing writing our own short memoir excerpts and science articles using memoirs and <i>National Geographic</i> articles	Course Evaluation