Nonfiction Books for Elementary Students
Longwood University

Professional Studies *Non-Credit* Class

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Class Description:
This course is all about informational books for elementary students (PreK-5th grade). During the four weeks, we'll look at types of informational books, narrative nonfiction, and pairing nonfiction and fiction texts together, and ways of using nonfiction books.   Together we will build a database of books that will give you a whole list of options for the next school year.

Class Overview:
This class is all about nonfiction books. We're going to be looking at nonfiction/informational books for PreK-5th grade.   During the four weeks, we'll look at types of nonfiction, trends in nonfiction, and pairing nonfiction/fiction together. Together we will build a database of books that will give you a whole list of options for the next school year.

This class is designed to be self-paced and does not require participants complete the work at the same time or participate in activities or discussions at the same time. However, reviewing what your fellow participants post and initiating discussions with them will greatly enhance your learning and overall experience.

Text:
No text is required for this class. Readings will be posted online. Students are encouraged to spend book funds on copies of children's books for their classroom instruction.

Goals & Objectives:

Identify and work together to build a database of the best in children's non-fiction text.

Investigate the different types of nonfiction books.

Explore the current trends in children's nonfiction literature.

Discover ways to share nonfiction books with students.

Design activities to support using nonfiction text.

Participate in course activities to get a deeper understand of children's nonfiction today.

SCHEDULE		
Dates	Topics	Assignments
Module 1 **Week 1**	**Introduction** **Types of Nonfiction** There are several kind of nonfiction books, so we'll explore those this week.	Readings & activities Submit titles to the Collaborative GoogleForm
Module 2 **Week 2**	**Trending** What are trends in nonfiction books?	Readings and activities Submit titles to the Collaborative GoogleForm
Module 3 **Week 3**	**Nonfiction Writers** This week we're going to explore various nonfiction authors.	Readings and activities Submit titles to the Collaborative GoogleForm
Module 4 **Week 4**	**Let's Share!** We've had a great time sharing books, but what are some ways to share them with our students?	Readings and activities Submit titles to the Collaborative GoogleForm Expand a Title due!

Class Assignments: Instructions are provided for all assignments within the online class modules. These are general descriptions of the expectations.

Module Activities:
Each module will have at least one activity that you will be asked to complete, post your results, and reflect. These activities are assigned so you will have hands-on experience with nonfiction books.   In addition, each module will contain a "Professor Pick's" short video in which I will share a few booktalks and ideas for using those new books with students.

Collaborative Children's Nonfiction Database**:
Each week you will need to add at least 3 titles (but can be more) that you read and enjoyed for a minimum of 12 titles by the end of class. These can be any of the types of nonfiction. Each book must be appropriate for Grades PreK-5th grade and must have been published in ther last 5 years (2016-2021).   There will be a GoogleForm link in Canvas. The form will ask you the basics about the book (title, author, illustrator, publisher, type of nonfiction, etc.) and some ideas about how you might use it with children. (Just reading it aloud for the pleasure of reading is an acceptable answer to that question!). You'll fill out the form for each title. This will create a database that we'll all share, so at the end of the four week all students will leave with a database of new titles to use in your classroom.
** If you will have trouble accessing books from a library due to the pandemic, please let me know and we'll adjust this assignment on a case-by-case basis.

Expand a Title:
Pick a nonfiction appropriate for elementary age students published in the last five years. Design a way to incorporate using that book with students. Use the template provided in Canvas to guide your planning. Make sure to include connections to the Virginia SOLs, include ways to incorporate technology, and consider people in the school you might be able to collaborate with as well. We will post these in a discussion so that everyone can share ideas. We will have a sign-up sheet so there are no duplicates for this assignment.

Class Grading:

Module Activities	40 points (10 pts for each week)
Collaborative Children's Database	30 points
Expand a Title	30 points

Grading Scale

Non-credit classes are Pass/Fail. If you earn 80% (or 80 points), you receive a Pass for the class.

Class Policies:

Student Responsibility:

It is your responsibility to inform yourself of all relevant policies and procedures posted in this syllabus and in the Start Here section of your Canvas class. It is also your responsibility to contact your instructor or the Longwood Professional Studies office if you have questions or issues.

Communication Policy:

The instructor will respond to student messages within 24-48 hours, generally through email. For all assignments, feedback will be delivered within one week of the due date.

Attendance & Participation Policy:

Attendance for online courses is determined by how many times and for how long you access the Canvas course (this information is available for each student to the instructor), your participation in the assignments, and your timeliness in submitting requested work or response. Online courses can get away from you if not carefully scheduled. Take the time to review your online commitments, schedule regular and consistent time to be online, and stick to the schedule. You are expected to participate in all Canvas activities. Failure to participate in Canvas activities may impair academic performance and result in a lower grade. You must_ assume full responsibility for an online presence_.

Technical Assistance:

Please contact your instructor for assistance with Canvas.

Class Evaluation:

At the conclusion of the course, each student will have the opportunity to evaluate the class and instructor. Your feedback is important to us. Please take the time to complete the online evaluation.