

Reading and Writing 8
Mrs. Mastracchio
Periods 3, 4 & 9

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This year in *Reading and Writing*, we are focusing on reading nonfiction in order to gather, understand, and write about factual information. You will learn practical research strategies, note taking strategies, and critical thinking skills, which will help you to comprehend nonfiction.

A main goal is writing an extensive research paper and presenting your findings to the class. You will lead up to this project by researching an author of one of your books. During the semester you will read both fiction and nonfiction pieces. In addition, the class will learn to evaluate web sources and navigate the world of databases in order to gather the most reputable information for your research projects. You will also learn how to properly cite your sources.

In addition to our lessons in content area reading and researching, we will always find time to **Drop Everything And Read**. Independent silent reading remains a top priority in this class.

Course Expectations

AUTHOR STUDY: You will delve into the background of an author of your choice. Part of your research will be to read at least one novel by the selected author. You will complete a 2-3 page persuasive paper with parenthetical citations.

RESEARCH PROJECT: You will work with other students cooperatively researching a topic of your choice utilizing the research techniques learned in class. The emphasis in this unit is on the process of researching and reporting. Upon completion of this unit, your group will write a typed and correctly cited research paper. The group will present their findings in a 15-20 minute well-organized presentation using visual aids.

INDEPENDENT READING: We grow as readers by having an active reading life. For this reason, we will **Drop Everything And Read** two-three periods per week. Throughout the semester, you will choose your own books. ***You must have a good book in your possession at all times.*** If you are close to the end of your book, be sure to have a book on deck! Assigned reading for other classes is not allowed on **DEAR days**.

NOTEBOOK AND READING RECORDS: You will need an organized notebook. Use your reading notebook for the following: to respond to your independent reading (Dear Responses); to keep a list of the books you have read and plan to read; and to maintain class notes and in class reading assignments. ***Notebooks will be graded periodically.***

DEAR RESPONSES: You will write a response to your independent reading approximately once a week. In general an entry should be a full page (approximately 15-20 sentences). Your responses provide me with evidence of the work you are doing during independent reading, so show off. Reading responses should reflect the thinking that is taking place in your head while reading. They should include your insights, reactions, and interpretations to your reading. ***Always include specific details from your novel. Responses will be graded.***

PARTICIPATION: A positive attitude is the key to success. Your enthusiasm for reading is contagious and helps build a positive reading community. Put your best effort forward everyday. Participation on classroom days means thinking critically, and accomplishing the goals of the lesson. Participation on library days means reading SILENTLY. Being prepared and on time are essential. ***Participation is graded.***

MATERIALS:

- Loose-leaf Binder with 3 sections (Class work, DEAR Responses, Research)
- 2 highlighters, 2 pens
- USB Drive

GRADING: Grades in reading class are based on effort, participation, and skill development. Grades are based on the following assignments.

- Regular Class Participation
- Satisfactory completion of the Author Study Research Paper and the assignments associated with them.
- Satisfactory completion of the group Research Paper and Presentation and the assignments associated with them.
- Satisfactory completion of independent reading books and the assignments associated with them.
- Satisfactory completion of your Reading Responses.
- Satisfactory completion of class work and homework assignments.

ALL MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TYPED.

**** All assignments are to be completed well and on time.
Late assignments will be penalized.**

Best wishes for a happy and successful year!!!!