

Discover the



# KINDS OF NONFICTION

Your Collection Needs

## DID YOU KNOW . . .

**Today's nonfiction comes in an astonishing variety of forms, formats, and writing styles. Using the 5 Kinds of Nonfiction to help students navigate the wide world of fact-tastic books can turn reluctant readers into enthusiastic readers!**



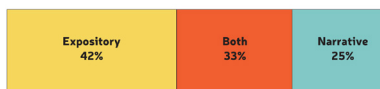
Educators tend to prefer a narrative writing style—one that appeals to fiction lovers because it includes real characters and settings, narrative scenes, and a standard story arc with rising tension, a climax and resolution.

But students tend to prefer expository nonfiction, which shares ideas and information in a more direct, straightforward way, often relying heavily on art and design to help convey meaning, and is more likely to include a wide variety of text features.

### Which **writing style** do school librarians and literacy educators prefer?



### Which **writing style** do elementary students prefer?



## THE 5 KINDS OF NONFICTION CAN ...

- Increase reader engagement
- Grow critical literacy skills
- Expand content knowledge
- Foster nonfiction appreciation
- Make the research process more efficient
- Build awareness of text features and text structures
- Help students explore voice, language, and point of view

**Discovering a student's passion and fueling it with high-quality nonfiction can make all the difference in their progress as a reader.**

—Melissa Stewart and Marlene Correia

*5 Kinds of Nonfiction: Enriching Reading and Writing Instruction with Children's Books*



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visit [lernerbooks.com/5KNF](http://lernerbooks.com/5KNF)

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# HOW DOES YOUR COLLECTION COMPARE?

## First, determine your own writing style preference.

***Make a list of 5 children's books that you love. Put a checkmark next to the ones that are nonfiction. If none of them are nonfiction, don't worry—you're not alone.***

Let's try again—make a list of five nonfiction children's books that you admire. Place an N next to the ones with a narrative writing style. Place an E next to the books with an expository writing style. Do you seem to prefer one writing style more than the other? If so, why do you have that preference?

## Next, evaluate your existing collection.

1. Do you have enough nonfiction? Experts recommend 50 percent.
2. What percent do you think are narrative nonfiction?
3. What percent do you think are expository?
4. Does your nonfiction include a healthy selection of books from all five categories—active, browseable, traditional, expository literature, and narrative? If you aren't sure, the book *5 Kinds of Nonfiction* can help you evaluate your collection and re-build it to meet the needs of a broad range of fact-loving kids.

## Involve your students in the audit by asking some of the questions below:

1. Do you prefer fiction or nonfiction? Why?
2. I notice in your browsing that you've selected a lot of \_\_\_\_\_. Are these books you enjoy reading? What is it about them that you like?
3. What kinds of books do you enjoy reading at home? What other kinds of materials do you read at home?
4. Have your students take a Book Match Survey to evaluate their reading interests. Here's an example: <https://bit.ly/3zOfKLT>

## Look at your circulation data as well.

1. How many children checked out expository texts each week?
2. Did your students show any preference for a particular kind of nonfiction—active, browseable, traditional, expository literature, or narrative?
3. What topics are “hot” among your students right now?
4. Does your book collection match the interests of your students?
5. Do the books you select or recommend for instruction match the needs of your students?
6. Are your striving readers choosing expository nonfiction? If so, do they seem to prefer a particular topic or category of nonfiction?



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# NOW WHAT?

**5 Kinds of Nonfiction recommends a mix of all five kinds of nonfiction, as outlined below:**

Category	Pleasure Reading	Research	Mentor Text	Percentage
Narrative	X		X	20%
Expository Literature	X	X	X	25%
Traditional	X	X		20%
Browseable	X	X	X	25%
Active*	X			10%

\*This table assumes that your school has a designated makerspace with plenty of active nonfiction. If this is not the case, aim to add a bit more active nonfiction to your school's classroom and library collections.

As you look for new books to add to your collection, be sure to consider the writing style of the books you are evaluating and aim to flesh out any nonfiction categories that are under-represented.

For detailed descriptions of the 5 Kinds of Nonfiction as well as reading and writing activities using recommended titles, read *5 Kinds of Nonfiction: Enriching Reading and Writing Instruction with Children's Books* from Stenhouse. To order, visit [https://stenhouse.com/products/9781625314178\\_5-kinds-of-nonfiction](https://stenhouse.com/products/9781625314178_5-kinds-of-nonfiction)

*Whether they're writing a report, a thesis, a business proposal, or a company newsletter, college students and workers need to craft expository prose that's clear, logical, and interesting. The sooner and more often children have opportunities to read and write expository nonfiction, the better off they'll be in school and in life.*

—Melissa Stewart and Marlene Correia

*5 Kinds of Nonfiction: Enriching Reading and Writing Instruction with Children's Books*

*Once students understand the 5 Kinds of Nonfiction and have experience classifying books according to this system, they'll be able to predict (1) the type of information they're like to find in a book, and (2) how that information will be presented. . . . By using a combination of books from different nonfiction categories, students can find inspiration and focus their thinking.*

—Melissa Stewart and Marlene Correia

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**For book lists to round out your 5 Kinds of Nonfiction collection, visit [lernerbooks.com/5KNF](https://lernerbooks.com/5KNF)**



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