

NONFICTION

Biographies are nonfiction, and they come in a wide variety of flavors. Generally, biographies are better written than autobiographies, unless, of course, the person is a writer him or herself. To be an effective read for this class, there needs to be discussable rhetorical evidence, and a professional writer is simply better at delivering that than a non-professional.

Memoirs are usually nonfiction. Lately, however, there have been several successful memoirs that turned out to have been fictionalized. The genre of memoirs is changing. It might be impossible to tell either before or even after reading one whether or not it is true. Knowing something about the author can be key here.

Textual material (e.g., scientific, medical, literal) is definitely nonfiction. It is usually meant to inform, so certain persuasive-oriented rhetorical devices will be missing, but there can be plenty of other solid devices used by the pros. There is even a genre of nonfiction novel, such as *In Cold Blood*.

Essays are an excellent choice for nonfiction reading. There are varied subjects, and you can pretty much pick and choose what you want to read about. If you like touching prose, you can find it. If you like humor, it is there. If you like politics or human relations, they can be found. If you find an author you like, there are likely collections of his or her essays. Or, you can find collections at the bookstore or the library.

There are other types of nonfiction writing. Choose a body of work by one author or one that is thematically linked.

**Read
like a writer.**



**Write
like a reader.**







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**AP English Language
and Composition**

SUMMER READING PROJECT

-  **Choose a nonfiction book from the last decade (anthology or collection from a single author is okay).**
-  **Read it, paying attention to the requirements inside this folder.**
-  **Make notes as described.**
-  **Be ready to discuss your book with the class.**