



## How to Determine Writing Style Preference

Are you curious about your own students' preferences for narrative versus expository texts? To find out which writing style your students prefer, try interviewing them during a reading conference. You can ask K-2 students:

- Do you prefer to read fiction or nonfiction? Why?
- I notice in your browsing box that you've selected a lot of \_\_\_\_\_. Are these the books you enjoy reading? What is it about them that you like?
- What kinds of books do you enjoy reading at home? What other kinds of materials do you read at home?

You can ask students in grade 3 and up:

- Do you prefer to read fiction, narrative nonfiction, or expository nonfiction? Why?
- I notice that you often bring back a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ from the school library. Are these the books you enjoy reading? What is it about them that you like?
- What kinds of books do you enjoy reading at home? What other kinds of materials do you read at home?



You can also make important discoveries about your students' reading preferences by talking to them about the books they choose to look at or bring in from home.

For a more objective and systematic look at your students' reading preferences, you can collect data about the books they choose to read during a specified timeframe, such as a week or a month. If your class visits the school library on a regular basis, ask the librarian to use the school's digital library management system, such as Follett's Destiny Manager, to track the titles the children check out. Then work with the librarian to sort the titles into three categories—fiction, narrative nonfiction, and expository nonfiction. The results may surprise you.