If genre study isn’t in your curriculum and standards documents, it’s likely to be soon. But which genres are the most useful? And how do you find time to cover them all? Writing Outside Your Comfort Zone answers these questions. It shows how immersing students in one genre that they aren’t familiar with helps them understand the concept of genre in general and strengthens their reading and writing.

In Writing Outside Your Comfort Zone
Cathy Fleischer and Sarah Andrew-Vaughan present the Unfamiliar Genre Project. Through this extended reading and writing sequence, your students will discover the skills to be savvy in any genre, and you’ll find ways to support them. The Unfamiliar Genre Project helps you:

- develop students’ thinking about writing fundamentals such as purpose, audience, form, topic selection, and word choice
- support adolescents’ test-taking abilities by increasing their awareness of the genre characteristics of test writing
- fully engage students by connecting school writing to their outside interests
- truly integrate the English curriculum by studying genre from the points of view of both readers and writers.

Fleischer and Andrew-Vaughan give you highly detailed, specific ideas for teaching the Unfamiliar Genre Project. Their organizational structures, lessons, and variations for classrooms in different settings will help you plan and implement the project with ease. And they provide numerous student samples—including one entire project—in the book, with more online at books.heinemann.com/unfamiliar.

Read Writing Outside Your Comfort Zone and teach the Unfamiliar Genre Project. You’ll soon discover how to boost students’ achievement in every genre as they study just one.

978-0-325-01247-6 / 2009 / 184pp / $20.00
“This work is an important contribution to the field of writing instruction, but it is also a great read. The advice is practical, the resources helpful, and the discussion thought provoking. Fleischer and Andrew-Vaughan are wonderful guides on the journey through the Unfamiliar Genre Project...they invite us in, earn our trust, and then support us as we take on a new and unfamiliar challenge. Enjoy the journey!”

—Heather Lattimer, Author of Thinking Through Genre

About the Authors

A former high school English teacher, Cathy Fleischer is a professor of English at Eastern Michigan University. She has edited NCTE’s English Education and codirects the Eastern Michigan Writing Project, coordinating the teacher research group and the Family Literacy Initiative. Cathy presents frequently and writes extensively about how teachers can create change by conducting classroom research and sharing it with colleagues, administrators, and parents. Sarah Andrew-Vaughan teaches English at Huron High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She is a Teacher Consultant for the Eastern Michigan Writing Project and a long-standing member of its teacher research group. Her article “Researching Writing: The Unfamiliar Genre Research Project” (with Cathy Fleischer) won English Journal’s Edwin M. Hopkins Award in 2006.

You may also be interested in...

Purposeful Writing
Genre Study in the Secondary Writing Workshop
Rebecca Bowers Sipe and Tracy Rosewarne
978-0-325-00955-1 / 2006 / 192pp / $21.00

Purposeful Writing can help you teach genre through an instructional framework that’s flexible enough to help every student in the classroom but strong enough to stand up to the weight of standards and whole-class needs. If you’re looking for a way to balance the many complex demands made on your writing instruction, read Purposeful Writing. You’ll discover how to create compelling lessons, encourage students to be personally invested in their own learning, and, best of all, have the flexibility to meet the needs of every writer in your classroom.

Blending Genre, Altering Style
Writing Multigenre Papers
Tom Romano
978-0-86709-478-7 / 2000 / 208pp / $22.00

For Tom Romano, the multigenre paper is more than a writing assignment. It is a multilayered, multivoiced literary experience. Blending Genre, Altering Style is the first book to address the practicalities of composing multigenre papers. Romano discusses genres, subgenres, and writing strategies that students can use in their own multigenre papers. Imbued with Romano’s passion for teaching, Blending Genre, Altering Style is an invaluable reference for any inservice or preservice English language arts teacher.