

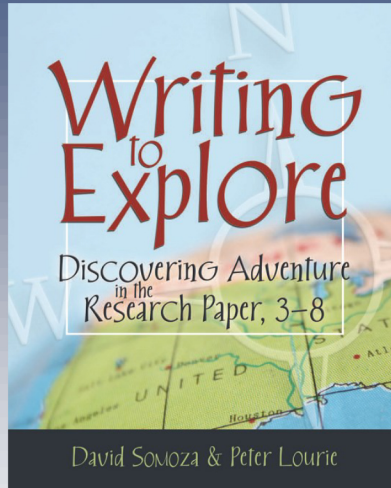
Speaking to Teachers about Writing

David Somoza

Educator

Author

Speaker



Writing to Explore: Discovering
Adventure in the Research Paper, 3-8

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Too often research papers are simply regurgitated encyclopedia entries. After reviewing many dry research papers, David Somoza, a 16-year elementary teacher in New York, began to experiment with an adventure writing model based on books written by Peter Lourie, adventurer and children's book author. Peter has written over 20 adventure books, including the title, *Rio Grande*, which was on the Texas Bluebonnet List for 2000-2001 and has been a keynote speaker for IRA, NCTE, and TLA.

In *Writing to Explore*, David and Peter demonstrate how to teach adventure writing, which integrates nonfiction and fiction and motivates students to write with imagination, curiosity, and a hunger to learn everything about their topic. The book starts with a solid foundation in the basics of good writing: setting descriptions, creating atmosphere, and developing character. The authors then explore the specific elements of adventure writing - from setting the stage to conducting research; from combining history and geography to effectively utilizing technology. The result is an adventure-based paper that is "rooted in real places, supported by facts, and developed with detailed description of images from real locations."

Teachers will find handouts, sample activities, student writing examples, research sources, and tips to help them create a nonfiction writing program based around the adventure writing model.

For more information on David and Peter's speaking schedule, please contact Chandra Lowe with Stenhouse Publishers at clowe@stenhouse.com. For information on ordering copies of this title, contact Catherine McGough at cmcgough@qepbooks.com.