Activity: Evaluating Non-fiction
Purpose: Develop and apply criteria for high-quality non-fiction books.

1. Guide students as they generate criteria for a high-quality non-fiction book.
2. Read aloud a piece of non-fiction.
3. After reading the text, help students apply criteria, rate the book and explain their evaluation.
4. Have students read a non-fiction book and apply the criteria to their book.
5. Students rate their book and present their evaluation to classmates.

Example Criteria:

- Is there a table of contents to provide an efficient way to find information?
- Is there an index to help you find information on specific pages?
- Are there chapter titles to guide you to particular categories?
- Are there titles, headings, and subheadings to help you find key information?
- Are different kinds of information emphasized with italics, bold print, bullets, or color?
- Is there a glossary to help define words?
- Is there a pronunciation key to help you say the words?
- Are there diagrams, sketches, maps, charts, photographs, tables, and timelines?
- Do the graphic aids have explanatory captions?
- Does the book provide up-to-date information?
- Did I learn something new from reading the book?
- Does the author break down important ideas into parts that can be understood?
- Does the author present different perspectives?
- Is the information accurate? Is the author qualified to write the book?
- Does the author’s style make the information interesting?