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## Department: Teacher's Corner



### Summer Works...

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It is safe to say that by the time you read this, summer break is or will be, on the horizon. Many educators choose to use part of the summer to attend a gifted education conference; others seek to revise and/or construct new and existing curriculum. Students, too, are busy at recreational day and overnight camps or on vacations close to or far from home, where they engage in a variety of enriching activities. I'd like to offer suggestions for both the teacher and the student on ways to educationally enhance the summer months.

For the Teacher

Whether you have experienced the excitement of a summer conference, and like me, cannot wait for the minute you depart, or perhaps you've never considered attending. If that is the case, I urge you to give it a shot. Attending a conference in the summer is quite different than during the year. There is a chance to relax, take information in at a leisurely pace, and return home refreshed and ready to use all that is learned. The [NAGC Annual Convention](#) is coming in November, but you may want to explore some of these summer conferences listed below. There is sure to be one close to you!

[Challenging Advanced Learners Academy](#), June 17-19, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Campus, Whitewater, WI

[Kentucky Association for Gifted Education Summer Workshop](#), June 18, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY

[Pennsylvania Gifted Institute](#), June 24 – 28, Millersville University, Millersville, PA

[Professional Summer Institute](#), June 27 – 28, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA

[Workshops in Gifted Education](#), July 8 – 19, Belin-Blank Center, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

[Confratute](#), July 14 – 19, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

[SENG Conference](#), July 19 – 21, Marriott World Center, Orlando, FL

[California Association for the Gifted Summer Teacher Institutes](#), July 24-26 in Santa Barbara and August 7-9 in Oceanside

[20th World Conference on Gifted and Talented Children](#), August 10 – 14, Louisville, KY

[Edufest](#), July 28-August 2, Boise State University, Boise, ID

#### For the Student

Many high-ability students already have a jam-packed summer, and it is important for them to recognize that learning can occur outside of the classroom, an understanding all too often lost during the rigor of daily assignments. The following suggestions come from a much larger [Summer Work Packet](#) distributed to middle school students at my school. I hope you find these suggestions for summer enrichment helpful.

1. Visit a museum and write a two-paragraph summary of your experience. The first paragraph should be about the museum in general, and the second paragraph should be about the one or two most interesting things you encountered at the museum.
2. Conduct an interview with a person who lived in a different country for at least one year since 1980. The goal of your interview is to find out about some of the cultural markers of the country in which the person lived.
3. Participate in a class or workshop that may be held at a camp, public library, YMCA, school, youth organization, etc. Upon completion write a two-paragraph summary of your experiences, including what you learned.
4. Write a piece of creative writing that could be a collection of poetry, a short play, or a fiction story.
5. Attend a performance and create a poster advertising the event OR write a two-paragraph typed review of the event.
6. Create a travel advertisement that is either a recorded jingle or a tri-fold brochure about a place you visit this summer.
7. Read a young adult novel and develop a creative project to promote the book.
8. Design a Reading Timeline of your reading experiences that include at least 10 events from your lifetime, starting from your earliest memory of books and ending in the present.
9. Create a Web page on a well-known scientist or environmentalist.
10. Create a Travel Blog to document your travels (real or imaginary) over the summer.

Keep in mind that NAGC has a [Summer Resource Directory](#), complete with suggestions and advice on how to choose summer opportunities.

Enjoy your summer and be sure to check out the June 2011 installment of [Connecting for High Potential](#) in *Compass Points*, which focused on student engagement during the summer months.

You can also access these summer-themed "Teacher's Corner" columns:

- [Looking To The Future Makes The Present Productive](#)
- [Looking Ahead: Considerations, Suggestions, and Success](#)
- [Improving One's Own Corner: Making a List](#)