

I am an outdoor education and high school English teacher. I am finding that the students that I have in outdoor education love starting their day outside working on skills that they may already have or are interested in. They feel as though starting the day with fresh air makes them more refreshed and ready to sit in a classroom to do work. I also implement my outdoor teaching in my high school English classroom. The students use outdoor connections to stories we have read and work on a project out in the woods around our school. They also do some work in our outdoor classrooms as well as collaborative work with some of our elementary students outside being mentors. The English students are finding their strengths and working on the things they are not confident with. Some are stepping out of their comfort zone by collaborating with others they normally wouldn't because of the outdoor piece.

My students are much more confident and feel a sense of accomplishment because of their time outdoors. They are mentally ready for the day when they can get outside and explore or just enjoy the outside activities.