**Evaluating informational books for young adults**

**YALSA Award for Excellence in Non-fiction for Young Adults**The YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction honors the best nonfiction book published for young adults (ages 12-18) during a Nov. 1 – Oct. 31 publishing year.  
<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/nonfiction>  
“The title must include excellent writing, research, presentation and readability for young adults.”

*Excellent writing*  
\*clear & concise; clear delineation of fact  
\*correct technical language used  
\*Content appropriate for age level  
\*Writing style appropriate for subject and intended age  
 ***Moonbird: A year on the wind with the great survivor B95* by Phillip Hoose**

*Research*\*Solid research and most current information  
\*Primary resources consulted  
\*Material has been fact checked  
\*Sources are cited  
\*Contains back matter including index, source notes, bibliography, further reading/viewing appropriate to audience  
 ***Titanic: Voices from the disaster* by Deborah Hopkinson *We've got a job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March* by Cynthia Levinson**

*Presentation*\*Book is arranged in a logical fashion so narrative is easy to follow  
\*Chosen style of illustration (photographs, drawings, graphic features etc.) appropriate to subject.  
\*Illustrations placed appropriately within the text  
\*Artwork is informative and appealing; conveys ideas better than text and/or adds to text  
\*Captions add to rather than repeat text  
\*Drawings done to correct scale  
  
***Steve Jobs: The man who thought different* by Karen Blumenthal**

*Readability*\*Riveting narrative  
\*Plot and character development  
\*Sensitive to bias  
\*Multiple perspectives when appropriate  
\*Supportive ancillary material (cast of characters, timeline, introductory note etc.)

***Bomb: the race to build and steal the world's most dangerous weapon* by Steve Sheinkin.**

**Resources**  
Faust, Susan. *In Quest of Excellence: The Sibert committee looks at 14 qualities of a truly distinguished information book*. School Library Journal, June 2001, p. 42-43.  
*What makes a non-fiction book for youth great?*

Frederick, Angela. *Excellent non-fiction*. Young Adult Library Services, Spring 2013, p. 33-34.   
*An article about what it’s like to serve on the YALSA Excellence in Non-fiction for Young Adults Award committee.*

Partridge, Elizabeth. *Narrative nonfiction: Kicking ass at last*. The Horn Book Magazine, March/April 2011, p. 69-73.  
*Non-fiction is finally getting the recognition it deserves!*  
Silvey, Anita. *The Real Deal*. School Library Journal, June 2010, p. 22-25.  
*An interview with Jim Murphy.*

Weisman, Kay. *A new look at information books*. School Library Monthly, v. 29, no. 1, September-October 2012, p. 8-10.  
*Guidelines for selecting informational texts.*

**Non-fiction for teens: A selection of books from 2014**  
Atkinson, Rick. *D-Day: The invasion of Normandy, 1944*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2014.

Brimner, Larry Dane. *Strike! The farm workers' fight for their rights*. Honesdale, Pa.: Calkins Creek Books, 2014.

Farrell, Mary Cronk. *Pure Grit: How American World War II nurses survived battle and prison camp in the Pacific*. New York :, Abrams Books for Young Readers,, 2014

Fleming, Candace. *The Family Romanov: Murder, rebellion, and the fall of Imperial Russia*. New York :, Schwartz & Wade Books, 2014.

Jarrow, Gail. *Red Madness: How a medical mystery changed what we eat*. Honesdale, Pa.: Calkins Creek, 2014.

Kuklin, Susan. *Beyond Magenta: Transgender teens speak out*. Somerville, Massachusetts :, Candlewick Press, 2014.

Marrin, Albert. *A Volcano Beneath the Snow:**John Brown's war against slavery*. New York : Alfred A. Knopf, 2014.

Mitchell, Don. *The Freedom Summer murders*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2014.

Nelson, Marilyn*. How I discovered poetry*. New York: Dial Books, 2014.

Rubin, Susan Goldman. *Freedom Summer: The 1964 struggle for civil rights in Mississippi.* New York: Holiday House, 2014.

Sheinkin, Steve. *The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, mutiny, and the fight for civil rights*. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2014.

Wagenen, Maya van. *Popular, A Memoir: Vintage wisdom for a modern geek*.   
New York: Dutton Juvenile, 2014.  
  
Wallace, Rich. *Babe Conquers the World: The legendary life of Babe Didrikson Zaharias.* Honesdale, PA : Calkins Creek Books, 2014.