

## **Aquarius Aquanaut Adventure: a Narrative Writing Lesson by Amy J. Vinglish**

**Subject area: English/Language Arts**

**Grades: 7-12**

**Objective:** Students will be able to research the Aquarius undersea lab and some of the missions. Students will also be able to imagine themselves as aquanauts and write a narrative describing their adventure.

### **Procedure:**

1. Have students visit [www.aquarius.fiu.edu](http://www.aquarius.fiu.edu) to learn about Aquarius. They should particularly visit <https://aquarius.fiu.edu/about/facilities/>. They should take notes of some of the important features of the habitat that they may want to use in their story.
2. Encourage them to view video tours, such as this one: <http://time.com/Cousteau/> to get an idea of what it is really like to be inside.
3. Assign them to find and study one mission that has been completed in Aquarius (For example, Mission 31 or Neemo). They will answer these questions:
  - A) What was the name of the mission?
  - B) Who was involved?
  - C) What was the purpose/aim of the mission?
  - D) How many days did it last?
  - E) What were the challenges?
  - F) What were the outcomes?
4. Tell students to imagine they are aquanauts on a mission based in Aquarius. They will write a story (Assign the length and expectations based on the age group and level) about part of their adventure on the mission. They should invent a name and purpose for the mission and focus on a single event during the mission rather than describe the whole experience. The story must include accurate facts about the habitat (You might want to require a certain number of accurate references).

**Assessment:** A rubric should be created, appropriate to the age group and level of students.

**Extension ideas:** Teams of students make a video simulation of their adventure or they do a live role play of the adventure.