



AN INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH STORIES



What they are

Research stories are brief accounts of current research problems, techniques, and findings of groups of scientists and engineers associated with the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center. The Center is a consortium of academic scientists and engineers working to develop sustainable ways of producing biofuels that can help with the problem of global climate change. The intent of the stories is to provide in narrative form a human interest perspective on modern science.

Purpose

Research stories provide instructional materials that address the following issues:

- Literacy: the stories provide science-specific reading materials so that students can practice literacy skills in science courses.
- The nature of science: the stories illustrate the day-to-day work of actual scientists and engineers in ways that complement the description of the scientific and engineering practices in the Next Generation Science Standards.
- The role of science and engineering in addressing modern societal issues: the stories illustrate how solutions to societal issues like global warming come from the collective work of many scientists and engineers.

How to use them

- As stand-alone activities: the stories can be used independently from other activities as a way of giving students a window into the work of professional scientists and engineers. This allows students to see how the processes of school science are reflected in the real world.
- In conjunction with hands-on activities: when used in conjunction with related hands-on activities, the stories provide a context for their own investigations illustrating how their work mirrors actual science and real-world problems.