



The Multigenre Research Paper

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What is a Multi-Genre Research Paper?

- "A multi-genre paper arises from research, experience, and imagination. It is not an uninterrupted, expository monolog nor a seamless narrative nor a collection of poems. A multi-genre paper is composed of many genres and subgenres, each piece self-contained, making a point of its own, yet connected by theme or topic and sometimes by language, images, and content. In addition to many genres, a multi-genre paper may also contain many voices, not just the author's. The trick is to make such a paper hang together."

(Romano, *Blending Genre, Altering Style*)

What's a genre exactly?

- **A Brief List of Genres:**
- Journal Entries
- Personal Letter
- Greeting Card
- Schedule/Things to Do List
- Inner Monologue Representing Internal Conflicts
- Classified or Personal Ads
- Personal Essay or Philosophical Questions
- Top Ten List/Glossary or Dictionary
- Poetry
- Song Lyrics
- Autobiographical Essay
- Contest Entry Application
- Business Letter or Correspondence/Persuasive or Advocacy Letter

Brief List of Genre (cont.)

- Biographical Summary
- Critique of a Published Source
- Speech or Debate
- Historical Times Context Essay
- Textbook Article
- Science Article or Report/Business Article or Report
- Lesson Plan
- Encyclopedia Article
- Short Scene from a Play with Notes for Stage Directions
- Short Scene from a Movie with Notes for Camera Shots
- Dialogue of a Conversation among Two or More People
- Short Story
- Adventure Magazine Story
- Ghost Story

Brief List of Genre (cont.)

- Myth, Tall Tale, or Fairy Tale
- Talk Show Interview or Panel
- Recipe and Description of Traditional Holiday Events
- Classroom Discussion
- Character Analysis or Case Study
- Comedy Routine or Parody
- Liner Notes
- Picture book
- Chart or Diagram with Explanation and Analysis
- Brochure or Newsletter
- Time Line or Chain of Events
- Map with Explanation and Analysis
- Magazine or TV Advertisement or Infomercial

Brief List of Genre (cont.)

- Restaurant Description and Menu
- Travel Brochure Description
- How-To or Directions Booklet
- Receipts, Applications, Deeds, Budgets or Other Documents
- Wedding, Graduation or Special Event Invitation
- Birth Certificate
- Local News Report
- Pop-Up book
- Review and Poster for a Movie, Book, or TV Program
- Board Game or Trivial Pursuit with Answers and Rules
- Comic Strip or Graphic Novel excerpt
- Power Point Presentation
- Informational Video
- Web Site

Brief List of Genre (cont.)

- Future News Story
- Letter to the Editor
- Newspaper or Magazine Feature/Human Interest Story
- Obituary, Eulogy or Tribute
- News Program Story or Announcement
- Tabloid Article

What Does a Multigenre Paper Look Like?

- <http://www.users.muohio.edu/romanots/pdf/nativedarkness.pdf>

How do you go about assigning or working on a multigenre paper?

The Assignment Process:

- 1) Pick a topic that interests you. Narrow it down and create a guiding research question.

Example:

Topic: Love Marriage versus Arranged Marriage

Research question: What are the pros and cons of each type of marriage?

Next

2) Start researching your topic. You want to find information that highlights what you think you want to say or that gives you a starting point. You may choose to do a project that is informative (i.e. states the facts, but is trying to answer some sort of research question) or you may choose to do a project that is persuasive in nature (i.e. it is still researched, but it has a more obvious bias).

Next

- 3) Begin to put your research into different genres. Your topic will lend itself to specific genres. For example, if I were to write about Love Marriage versus Arranged Marriage, I might use dialogues, news stories, journal entries, comics or another creative genre to present some of the information about the issue.

What is the Teacher's Role

The teacher's role is to discuss the different genre that they would like students to focus on. For example, if you want to teach students how to write a formal business letter, then include that as a genre, and teach students the components and style of a business letter.

If you want them to understand Haiku, ask them to write a Hiaku about their topics.

But I Don't Know How to Write in All These Genre! Help!

- It isn't necessary for teachers to know how to write in all these genre. They can learn WITH their students.
- All you need is a few samples of the genre you want to teach. Analyze it together. What are the elements? What is the format? What kind of language is used? Etc.

You should give students lots of guidelines

The minimum requirements:

- Page 1: Title Page
- Page 2: Table of Contents
- Page 3: Preface: Introduction to your project
- Last Page: Works Cited Page

You must use 5 – 7 genre in the paper

PLAN, PLAN, PLAN

- If you decide to try the multigenre paper, make a clear plan of how you will use class time. Perhaps you want to devote one teaching day each week to explaining/exploring a genre. The students will then have one week to write a section of their paper in that genre.
- Decide when you will start, when you will finish, how assignments are to be handed in, in what format, at what time, etc.
- Decide how you will grade the projects and make this clear to the students at the beginning of the project. One criteria for a good grade should be completing drafts on time.

How Should I Evaluate the Projects?

- You should have a set of criteria for what makes a strong paper. For example:
 - Clear theme that is maintained in each piece
 - Shows understanding of the genre
 - Grammar and vocabulary
 - Creativity
 - Effort

Rubrics are Helpful

Create a rubric which can be used to evaluate each Element (10 = excellent; 1 = needs work):

- Clear theme that is maintained in each piece

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

- Shows understanding of the genre

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Can I fit this into my syllabus?

- YES! You already know that you have to teach certain genre for the exam, right?
- So do it in an creative and motivating way for the students. Let them use one of the topics or readings from class as a starting point.
- You can make shorter multigenre papers that include fewer genre.

Let's Try It

- Your topic is “Teaching English in India”
- Your genre are:
 - Menu
 - Essay Question (like the ones your students have to answer on the exam)
 - Text message
 - Comics
 - Dictionary entry
 - Job Advertisement

Menu Samples

- http://www.finleycatering.com/Dinner_menus/dinnermenu_brb.html
- http://willows95988.typepad.com/tongue_cheek/2007/04/aurevoir_paris.html
- <http://www.villapizzaonline.com/villa-pizza-menu.html>
- <http://www.bardstownmenus.com/PDF-menus/BJs.pdf>

Essay Questions

- Q.4. You are Shekhar/Tripta a student of A.P Public School. Principals of two schools from Pakistan visited your school as part of a cultural exchange programme. Students of the school put up a cultural show in their honour. Write a report about it for your school magazine. (100-125 words).
- **OR**
- As you were driving back home from work you were witness to an accident between a Maruti car and a truck. The driver of the car was seriously injured. There was confusion and chaos prevailing on the road. Describe the scene in about 100 to 125 words. You are Sameer/Samiksha.
- **10 marks**

Text Messages

- <http://www.zimbio.com/Funny+Text+Messages/notes/1/Examples+of+text+messages>
- http://www.developershome.com/sms/sms_tutorial.asp?page=egApps

“Based on a survey and focus groups conducted with teenagers between 12 and 17, Pew found that text messaging is by far the most common way that kids communicate with each other, more than chatting on the phone, e-mailing, using social-networking sites, or talking face to face.”

http://news.cnet.com/8301-1023_3-20002917-93.html

Comics

- Cartoons and comic strips can be used from beginner level to advanced level for a variety of language and discussion activities. **Cartoons are powerful teaching tools and can**
- Tell a complex story in a few images
- Provide comment and provoke thought on events and issues in the news
- Give an example of vocabulary related to current trends and fads
- Provide easily identifiable characters to form the basis for sketches
- Show culture in action with the ways that men or women are behaving and are expected to behave
- Comment on and illustrate a whole range of issues like racism, teenage relationships, sexism, ageism, family relationships.
- <http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/language-assistant/teaching-tips/using-cartoons-comic-strips>

Dictionary Entries

- <http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=hero>