**Genre in Science writing**: Specific genres help scientists and engineers respond to and shape the professional and social contexts that mediate their work. Typical genres in science writing include lab reports, grant proposals, white papers, posters, presentations, blogs, progress reports, accident reports, surveys, scientific articles in general interest publications, conference proceedings, IM, email, letters, meeting minutes, specifications, user manuals, code, instructions, descriptions, and more. There is a wide range in terms of length, formality, vocabulary, visuals, audience, and purpose. Specific organizations also create their own genres.

We can think about genre in two ways: first, as a form or template (A structure), and second, as an action in response to an ongoing need for communication in a specific group. The first perspective is what you will find if you Google “genre”. The second perspective arises from contemporary writing theory and ascribes a far more active role to the writing. It also requires looking at genre in context. Both views offer insight.

**Questions:**

1. Does the field require lots of writing or a little?
2. Who are some typical audiences?
3. What are some typical genres?
4. In your career, what is an important piece of writing you have contributed to? Why was this document important? What did you learn from doing it?
5. Is first- or third- person voice preferred? Why?
6. What organizational pattern is predominant?
7. How are visuals used?
8. What evidence is considered convincing? What evidence is not?
9. What citation format is used?
10. What is the field’s tolerance for errors in content or method?
11. What is the field’s tolerance for errors in writing?
12. What are the editing requirements?
13. If I wanted to write an article in a journal, what would the guidelines be? How would I learn to do that? Are the guidelines published or just passed on from person to person?
14. What is the one piece of advice you would offer a beginning writer in this field?