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### Reading Response: Understanding Genre

My understanding of genres in the context of writing studies is that genres are a classification of writing where texts of the same genre will exhibit similar characteristics. These characteristics can come in the form of structure, grammar, and themes to name a few. Ehren Pflugfelder explained genre well with his comparison to movies especially when explaining superhero movies. He showed how superhero movies usually have a few fights then a big fight at the end where they hero's use their superpowers to win against the bad guy. This relates to writing studies because studies of the same genre will obviously differ from each other, like in the superhero movies, but will express multiple of the same characteristics. The relationship between genres and communities is that communities will tend to follow the common genre used and understood by the rest of the community. As noted in the essay WHERE COMMUNITIES COLLIDE: EXPLORING A LEGAL GENRE, "when genres encompass participants beyond a narrow community that the effects of those interests become most troublesome" (Amy J. Devitt). She used a good example to explain the previous sentence, she explained how ballot-writers are in a small community of their own and the genre of the ballots they create, which are read by many non-ballot writers, can be extremely misleading and hard to understand for the general population. In the essay ACCESSING COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE GENRE OF ETHNOGRAPHY: EXPLORING A PEDAGOGICAL GENRE they quoted Carolyn R. Miller saying the relationship between community and genre is, "genres serve as keys to understanding how to participate in the actions of a community"(Mary Jo Reiff). This shows how important it is to understand different genres as it will give you better insight into multiple different communities which can improve your overall literacy in separate fields. A genre of interest that I would like to study this semester is guitar playing as it is one of my favorite past-times. The action of this genre is usually sharing how to play certain songs or perform certain techniques. This action is made with the moves of making tabs which show the fret number and string that is played in order to play a song. Another move that is used for this action is using intervals to explain certain scales and relations between notes to get a better understanding on how to play the guitar and make it sound good. These common moves show how guitar playing is a sub-genre of music playing because the use of intervals is not strictly for playing the guitar. However, the use of tabs is a guitar specific way of showing how to play music. This reflects the community because guitarists usually help each other and to make the communication

easier people have designed a form of musical notation, tabs, to make communication easier.