Multigenre Research Paper

How to use multiple genres to explore a topic

This month, we’ll be doing something a little different....

Over the course of the year, you’ve been working on developing your writing skills in multiple genres. This quarter, you’re going to combine your knowledge of these genres along with others in order to create an essay unlike any you’ve written before.

How does a multigenre paper work?

In a standard 5-paragraph essay, you pick a topic, you introduce it, you provide support in subsequent paragraphs, then you sum it all up. In a multi-genre paper, you choose a topic, you decide what you want to say about it, then you think about the best way to say it. That might be in a song, a poem, an interview, a journal, a letter, a collage, or a recipe. You are telling a story, persuading your reader in ways that aren’t always possible in a standard essay.

Throughout the next few weeks, we will look at several examples of multigenre papers and will research topics of your choosing. You will have several checkpoint dates to make sure you are on track. We will also dedicate several days to working on and helping one another with your papers. No scrambling at the last minute!

But What Should I Write?

You will need to use at least 5 different genres in your paper. Below are some ideas to get you started.

1. dialogue
2. quotes/excerpts from books
3. journal
4. part of essay
5. excerpt of narrative
6. recipe
7. cartoon
8. collage
9. photograph w/ caption
10. sonnet
11. two-voice poem
12. free verse poem
13. a print ad or billboard
14. script of a TV show
15. script of a commercial
16. movie trailer
17. dictionary definitions (real or made up)
18. newspaper clippings

Sooo...What Should I Write About?

You get to pick the topic, so choose something that ACTUALLY INTERESTS YOU! Don’t pick something just because you think it will be easy or you don’t know what else to do. Your paper will be boring for you to research and write and, worst of all, it will be boring for me to read. Choose something you actually want to write about and produce something you’re proud to put your name on.

This will be a persuasive research paper, so you will need to pick an issue you can take a stand on. If, for instance, you’re interested in basketball, don’t just pick a topic of “basketball.” Too broad. No opinion required. “Basketball is cool” is also not an acceptable topic; how can you prove this? However, “Should college basketball players be paid?” or “Should there be a mandatory dress code for NBA players off the court?” would both be excellent topics. Notice I phrased the topics in the form of a question. You should be able to ask a question for your topic. Your paper should answer the question. Choose a position; even if you’re on the fence, take a side.

**A Few Ideas** *(Remember, only choose it if it interests you!)*

**Note**

The following topics are off-limits. I’m sick of reading about them:

* Pot legalization
* Abortion

Censorship--Should schools ban some books because of controversial topics?

Government Powers--Should the president be allowed to spy on citizens without court approval?

Education--Should there be mandatory public education until the age of 18?

Sports--Should schools and/or booster associations be allowed to give gifts as incentives to recruits?

Science--Should stem cell research be allowed and/or supported by the government?

What Do I Have to Do?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Use at least 5 different genres

\_\_\_\_ At least one piece must be a paragraph of a traditional persuasive research paper

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Include a repetend (we will discuss this later)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Take a persuasive stand on a position of your choosing

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Use at least 2 of the persuasive techniques we discuss in class (either seriously or ironically)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Include a letter to the reader explaining your choice of topic and what you hope to accomplish in this paper

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Include a page of endnotes that explains each piece you included and its intended effect, persuasive techniques applied and in-text citations for research

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Include a title page (i.e.---Be sure to TITLE your portfolio!) and table of contents

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Use at least 5 **credible** sources for your paper. If at all possible, include a primary resource as well (interview of a knowledgeable person).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Take and turn in notes on your research, coded to relate to the piece in which it is used.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Include an annotated reference page (we will discuss how to do this later)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Have somewhere between 10-20 pieces total (not including your title page, table of contents, letter, end notes or works cited), **of which at least 1 and no more than 3 pieces can be taken from other sources (ie not created by you)**.

* **Note:** You may work with a partner, however you must then have a minimum of 15 pieces total.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Type your final copy (some genres may be done stylistically without typing, but it should be a professional presentation overall)