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**What is your understanding of "genre" within the context of writing studies based on what you've learned from these materials?**

Based on Devitt, Bawarshi, and Reiff's work, my understanding of genre in writing studies is a dynamic social action that both reflects and shapes the communities that use it. Rather than being mere categories or templates, genres are "active sites where language, culture, and social behaviors intersect" (Devitt et al. 542). They function as a "linguistic ecology" for discourse communities. Embodying the values, beliefs, and practices of these communities (543). This definition moves beyond traditional, static views of genre, emphasizing instead its role in mediating social interactions and reflecting the complexities of real-world communication.

**What is the relationship between genres and communities as found in Devitt, Bawarshi, and Reiff's research? What can studying genres help us to better understand about the communities where we find them?**

The authors describe a symbiotic relationship between genres and communities, where genres both reflect and reinforce community norms and practices. Studying genres can reveal insights into how communities function and communicate their boundaries. For instance, Devitt's analysis of jury instructions demonstrates how this legal genre exposes tensions between specialist and non-specialist communities, showing how "embedded assumptions and technical meanings" can create barriers or misunderstandings (545). By examining genres, we can better understand a community's social actions, power dynamics, knowledge creation, dissemination processes, values, and assumptions. Furthermore, genre analysis illuminates how "language shapes and is shaped by social contexts" within specific communities (542).

**Think about a genre of interest to you that you might like to study this semester (perhaps related to your academic, career, or extracurricular interests) and conduct a brief moves analysis. What is the action this genre carries out and how do the moves help it achieve that action? What can the common moves tell you about how structure and language create and reflect this community?**  
  
 I am considering coding as a genre within the software development community for this question. Let's examine its key moves and how they reflect the values and practices of programmers. The primary action of code is to provide instructions for computers to execute specific tasks. Common moves in coding include declaring variables, implementing control structures (like loops and conditionals), defining functions, and handling exceptions. These moves help achieve the genre's action by breaking down complex problems into manageable, logical steps that computers can process. The structure of code has a large emphasis on readability and re-usability this reflects the programmer community's values of efficiency and collaboration in a team space with many diverse members. For example, the practice of commenting code and using descriptive variable names demonstrates the community's emphasis on readability. The action this genre carries out is it essentially runs our entire diverse world of technology and I think that definitely reflects the clean and reusable principles of the programming community and is the reason those principles exist.