

B”H

UNIT 2: GENRE**A “How To Do” Sheet by Prof. Schmerler****ENG 1121**

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Why?: Because in real life (IRL) you will have to know to adapt to survive. You will have to write in a whole lot of different formats and, no, the 5-paragraph essay isn't one of them.

How?: Patience, please. We have to make you AWARE first. If you can identify and ACTIVELY UNDERSTAND AND TAKE APART the different forms of writing you encounter every day, then, you can persuade people with your own writing on your own terms, when the time is right for you to enter the workplace, etc.

What am I doing now?: Basically, you are learning how to read in a new way. And analyze in a new way. You are also doing a creative bit of re-writing. And, you are having fun. Okay, to be truly honest, if this assignment makes your brain hurt a little, then you are doing it right.

Who can help me?: Your teacher (that's me) during Office Hour. Your peer group during class time. Lots of people. No one has EVER written what you are about to write before. We can help you with the format, but you can't rely on anyone but yourself for the CONTENT of the writing. That, dear Student, has to come from YOU.

How to Start:

PHASE ONE: (bring this work, in progress to the next two classes!)

Pick a **skill** you have in real life. Pick something you love to do, and feel you do well. If you don't have a skill, pick something you spend a lot of time thinking about. Pick something you are passionate about. Pick something that you could read a lot about and not get bored. In fact, before you pick one, write down your top 3 skills here:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Now, list at least 5 different kinds of **genres** (forms of writing) that you encounter in your day-to-day life. (This has NOTHING to do with your skill. We will discuss that later.) Do you read lots of movie reviews Online? Do you read news articles? Do you read lots of Wiki How To's? Make a list, below.

- 1.
- 2.

- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Pick one of these genres.

Next, you will do a short but clear **analysis** of one of the above genres that includes, at minimum, the following information: who wrote it/the speaker; the audience; the kind of community that is invested in or impacted by this writing; the purpose of this writing; some key vocabulary or language terms you might find (if any) that are common in this form of writing; the sorts of ways that people try to write effectively in this genre (feel free to go into logos, pathos, ethos here if you can or wish). You can making some notes in the space, below, if you want:

You will eventually be writing this in a separate document. Bring this to next class for discussion. Once we have gone over all of the above, you will be ready for...

PHASE TWO: Your creative re-mix.

PHASE TWO -- YOUR CREATIVE WRITING:

Here is where you write about the SKILL you chose. Only now, you are re-casting this skill into the content of the kind of GENRE you chose from your everyday life. No, they don't match. And that's good. How can you write about what you know well (your SKILL) in a way that will fool my eye into thinking I am actually seeing the GENRE you chose? We will go over many examples in class. Please have fun with this. And bring any questions to class. Can you write a recipe for how to be a good mom? Can you write a WikiHow for how to procrastinate? Can you write a poem about how to play basketball? The possibilities are endless. Feel free to use the space below to get some good ideas down.

(bring this work, in progress, to class)

This ends the "How To Do It" section of this assignment. Now, on to your graded project.

UNIT 2: GENRE

FINAL PROJECT

DUE DATE _____

Here are the components and format for your Final Genre Project:

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+A hard copy **example** of the genre you chose to write in, clearly labeled.

+A short but clear **analysis** of this genre that includes at minimum, the following information: who wrote it/the speaker; the audience; the kind of community that is invested in or impacted by this writing; the purpose of this writing; some key vocabulary or language terms you might find (if any) that are common in this form of writing; the sorts of ways that people try to write effectively in this genre (feel free to go into logos, pathos, ethos here if you can or wish).

+And, finally, **your writing** about your topic (skill, interest) in this genre.

Please put your hard copies in the following order.

Page 1: Cover Page that includes Your Name, Your Section #, and the **Skill** you chose

Page 2: The example of the genre you chose, printed out and clearly labeled

Page 3: The analysis you wrote of the above genre

Page 4 (et al): Your creative writing about your skill in this genre

Please staple the above.