B”H

**UNIT 2: GENRE** An Attempt-at-clarifying-and-answering-all-your- questions Sheet by Prof. Schmerler

***Why?*** Because in real life (IRL) you will have to know to adapt to survive. Your will have to write in a whole lot of different formats (and, chances are that in real life, the 5-paragraph essay isn’t a format you will encounter too often).

***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 learn how to put them back together any way *YOU* CHOOSE. You can then *persuade* people with your own writing on *your own terms*.

***What*** *am I doing now?* To put it simply, you are learning how to read and write in a new way. You hare having fun. And probably, you are allowing yourself to be okay with feeling a bit lost. To be truly honest, if this assignment makes your brain hurt a little, then you are probably doing it right.

***Who*** *can help me?* Your teacher (that’s **me**) during Office Hour or during class workshop time. 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

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. Try to include at least one “creative/imaginative/fiction” writing form (poems? song lyrics? novels?), one “informative/non-fiction” writing form (news? resumes? lab reports?), and one form of writing that includes both words and images (ads? comic books? t-shirts?)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Next, you will do a short but clear rhetorical **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 make some notes in the space, below, if you want:

You will eventually be writing this in a separate document. Bring your drafts to next class(es) 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 context and language of the kind of GENRE you chose from your everyday life. No, they don’t match. And that’s good. In fact, the less they match, the better this experience will be. How can you write about what you know well (your SKILL) in a way that will fool the reader’s eyes and ears into thinking they are actually seeing the GENRE you chose? (Here is Prof. Schmerler’s test: does your writing smell like the genre you chose?) Please have fun with this. And bring any questions to class, please, so that we can help you. 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 final version that you will hand in for a grade.

**UNIT 2: GENRE Re-MIX PROJECT DUE DATE:** March 26

Here are the components that go into your Genre Re-Mix Project:

+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, exigence here etc. and all the other rhetorical analysis terms).

+And, finally, **your writing** about your skill/interest in this genre.

Please put your hard copies in the following format and order:

FORMAT FOR HANDING IN YOUR GENRE SWITCH ASSIGNMENT

Page 1: Cover Page that includes Your Name, Your Section #, and the **Skill** you chose. (So if Playing Basketball is your skill, then your cover sheet will say on it “Skill: Playing Basketball.”)

Page 2: The example of the genre you chose, printed out and clearly labeled “EXAMPLE.” (If you chose a graphic novel, for example, then I will see some photocopied pictures and text here, yes??? And the name and author of the graphic novel from which it was copied, yes??)

Page 3: The analysis you wrote of the above genre. This will be labeled “ANALYSIS” (and I won’t have to ask you for the source where you got your example because this info will already by in your written analysis, right? ; - ))

Page 4 (…5, 6, and however many more pages you need): Your creative re-write about your skill in this genre. Labeled “MY GENRE MIX.”

This entire bunch of papers will be stapled or otherwise clipped together. Thank you.

You’re done.

The rubric under which this assignment will be graded is available for download here and on our OpenLab site.