

MULTI-GENRE PAPER - English 5/7 Multi-Cultural Lit. & Rhetoric

This is a chance to show your ability to use words to “do something” – to advocate for social justice through your writing. You might pursue a related passion in your intellectual/emotional life, strive to answer a question or solve a problem or explore meaning involving a topic of consuming interest to you and to communicate your learning through a multi-genre research project, where you get the factual, the emotional, and the imaginative. This is a time to be expansive, to try the untried.

Choose a social justice topic, idea, trend, problem, era, person, cultural phenomenon, movement, item, place . . . and satisfy your insatiable curiosity.

RESEARCH SOURCES YOU MIGHT NEED TO COMPLETE YOUR WRITING

- Books, Articles, Internet Sources¹

GENRES/PIECES/ELEMENTS YOUR MULTI-GENRE PROJECT MUST CONTAIN

- Dear Reader (opening letter)
- Poetry in contemporary free-verse/spoken-word/slam style
- Flash fiction or Photo Essay with an original photo (no internet / stock images)

You MUST include all 3 bulleted items in your paper. You'll need to write more genres than the ones listed to create a fully realized multi-genre experience. Whatever else you write is up to you. Range widely as you create this paper.

Your project will also be assessed based on “visage,” copyedit, and overall effect (in relation to social justice themes).

MG DESIGN (LOOSE PROPOSAL + INFORMAL SKETCH/OUTLINE)

The Multi-genre Design will “jump-start” your project, help you think about your topic in a concentrated way. You'll do some initial exploration with words on paper, think things you wouldn't have if you only mused about your topic. It might also push you to get researching early to see what's “out there” about and related to your topic.

DRAFT, CONFERENCE, & FINAL “PRODUCT”

Your multi-genre product will be a total of 5 - 6 pages in length (**NOT** including works cited if you include research). It will need a fitting and original title, and a pleasing visual design. Between the draft & final you will be required to conference with Mrs. C (no revision window on this project).

PRESENTING

At the conclusion of this project (the biggest piece of the year), we will celebrate its completion by sharing the wonderment you have created. You will present to the class your spoken-word/slam poem.

ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION

Steps along the way (research design, draft, and presentation) will be awarded points based on their merit. The final product will be reviewed for including the required components, the effectiveness and writing of the pieces, the ways the pieces work together within the project itself.

¹ The Internet is democratic. You know it holds surprising, helpful information. And since there is no screening on the Internet, you'll also encounter misinformation, balderdash, and lies. Be careful. Learn who sponsors a website and what its purpose and bias are. Gauge the quality and the depth of what you find in cyberspace. I definitely don't want you to simply paste material from a website into your project. I want to see an original multi-genre paper from you, one passionate and grounded in a thorough research understanding of your topic. I want to see you expand your knowledge about some subject, maybe even develop wisdom. I want to see you stretch and refine your writing skills and powers of communication. I want you to use the thinking we've done about writing with a distinctive voice. I want to read your paper and be informed, but even more, I want to be *moved*.

*Much of this assignment has been borrowed and adapted from ideas and suggestions in Tom Romano's *Fearless Writing*.