

Genres Pieces Elements

FOR THE MULTI-GENRE WRITING PROJECT

* MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN BORROWED AND ADAPTED
FROM TOM ROMANO'S *FEARLESS WRITING AND BLENDING GENRE,*
ALTERING STYLE.

Why MG?

Multi-genre combines research with narrative thinking and creativity. It's risky.

But without risk, there's no reward.

“Emphatic Implicitness”

to be clear and vivid and meaningful without being heavy-handed, without the rhetorical jabs in the ribs

* Definitions here attributed to Tom Romano, *Fearless Writing* page 22.

Include Include your “perfect” title

Name Name, date, course

Add Add picture or graphic if you'd like

Title Page

“Argument” /
Researched
Expository
Piece

Like a mini-research paper

Proposal, position, or
evaluation

2 to 3 pages – MLA format

With citations

Open-ended thesis that drives
inquiry

Dear Reader (Preface/Prologue)



Has to INVITE the reader in, not scare them away



Can't give everything away – leave room for surprise



"Ground" the reader w/ vital info. to build meaning as they journey through your work



DON'T WRITE THIS PIECE FIRST (or if you do, keep it incredibly loose and know it will need changes)



Think of it as the "entryway" of your project



Format can be up to you – Consider what kind of entry your work demands. . . Does one genre fit better than another?



Perhaps try out more than one and then see what you like best.



Make a strong first impression

Poetry – Contemporary Free Verse or Spoken Word

Include at least one poem in a contemporary free verse style

This means it doesn't (usually) rhyme – at least not in a sing-song way

Most thoughts, if read through, are complete – almost like sentences with another rhythm

Watch some spoken word videos if it helps you imagine the kind of rhythm you can create with words.

You may experiment with other types of poetry and include them in the multi-genre paper, but you NEED one of this type.

Poetry – Contemporary Free Verse or Spoken Word

Poetry is a condensation of thought in order to render it more fully, more powerfully for the reader

Consider careful word choice, choice of convention, and choice of emphasis

Much of the best poetry is largely description; don't be afraid to use it.

TIPS TO GET YOU STARTED:

Think about writing pure descriptions of simple, tangible things

Start with images and details; follow where they lead.

Welcome surprises of language and meaning.

Play with *language*. CRAFT the poem.

Instead of things, consider places, or even events/moments in time

Flash Fiction / Non-Fiction

Miniature tales, revealing anecdotes, very short stories, narratives that happen in a “flash”

FIRST and FOREMOST – this is NARRATIVE (story-telling)

Think plot line – background – climactic point – resolution (or maybe not)

Typically between 250 to 700 words (you don’t have to count them)

Long enough to indicate character, build plot, and deliver an ending that might be surprising or troubling or sweetly ambiguous

Reader should be able to make connections, recognize the stuff of life here

Sometimes called a *vignette* (slice of life)

Can be fictional or non-fiction or even a sort of combination. .

Photo Essay

Communicate through images (or at least in combination with images)

Photo essay is a picture or series of pictures that evokes emotion, presents an idea, or tells a story.

Does what text alone cannot do

Can function with articles, descriptions, captions for context

Consider what photo(s) you could take that relate to or capture part of your topic.

When you see the photos, consider how they make you feel, what information they share, or what story they tell.

No internet photos or stock images

Scope: Anywhere from one to five images + text that accentuates, develops, or enlightens

Works Cited



Your MG piece needs a works cited page



Typical MLA style with MLA format including double-spaced, alphabetically listed sources you used when researching your topic



Show a range of research and varied sources



Include it AFTER your paper, but BEFORE the End Abstracts / Notes



Check the OWL or your textbook for details on creating works cited entries



Use a citation wizard if you want, but NOTE: they don't fix mistakes and can only make use of info. you enter (double-check them!!)

End Abstracts

Relevant, meaningful, offering genuine insight

Write an end abstract about any piece that you NEED to share more info. about. Information like how research informed the piece or the function you mean for it to play in relation to the whole paper. You might describe the creation of the piece, if it will shed light on your paper in a “real” way.

If you used a source in the researching of a particular section, but didn’t specifically quote or paraphrase, end abstracts would be an ideal place to note the inspiration the source provided you.

Within the text of the paper, use a superscript number (use the reference tab to insert an endnote). Use a corresponding number on your “End Abstracts” or “Notes” page to write out your supplemental info.

Unifying Elements



Unifying Elements might be the most direct way to move multi-genre from mere research writing to a kind of art. Usually these aren't planned – they just sort of evolve from what you are writing and the way you start to weave it together (hence the term "thread.")



Repeated images – Whether written in the text or provided visually, images can connect your piece when provided at appropriate intervals.



Repetend – Unexpected and poignant repetition that gains power through its repetition – repetend is often incorporated into a full-circle feeling from beginning to end. It can be repetition in words, phrases, and even form.



Motifs – In music, a motif is a short pattern, repeated here and there and thrown about through the piece and/or orchestration – a mini-theme.

Unifying Elements



Fragmented narrative –
Breaking up a narrative
story and interrupting it
with other genres, only to
come back to the story –
sort of a “multiple
perspective” feel, but with
genres that interrupt
instead of a narrator
switch.

Thread – A general term
for all this “tying
together,” the thread can
bring unity to what might
seem like randomly
selected pieces of different
genre.



More ways: repeat a detail
or section of exact
language; repeat a pattern
of quotations, pictures, or
titles; repeat a form,
genre, or style; repeat a
scene from several points
of view; create a full-circle
spot where a memorable
and well-crafted moment
comes back later, more
fully rendered as a
surprise.

Unifying Elements



Could be both words (textual)
and art/graphic/design (visual)



*COULD BE is the key here –
be creative, use imaginative
ways to help the reader see
your collection of smaller
works as ONE written work



WATCH FOR THEM IN THE FULL
MG EXAMPLES!

Writer Bio

Should include a flattering picture of the writer (YOU)

*It's a good idea to reflect something about yourself in the pic.

A paragraph or two of biography that shares briefly who you are, maybe hobbies, family life, writing experience, where you are going next – really the possibilities are endless. What do you want your readers to know about you?

Other Genre Possibilities

Advertisement	Editorial	Narrative	Social-Media-posts
Afterword	Email	News-article	Social-commentary
Allegory	Epilogue	News-report	Soliloquy
Argument	Essay	Newsletter	Song-lyric
Auto-biography	Essay-prompts	Outline	Sonnet
Bank-statement	Exploration	Parody	Speech
Biography	Facebook-posts	Persona	Stream-of-consciousness
Blackout poetry	Fairy-tale	Personal-letter	Survey
Blog	FAQs	Philosophical-quest	Tabloid-headlines
Book-review	Flash-fiction	Photo-essay	Talk-show-interview
Brochure	Flash-non-fiction	Picture-book	Team-roster
Case-study	Foreword	Poetry	Test-questions
Cast-list	Graffiti	Political-satire	Text message
Character-analysis	Greeting-card	Prayers	Textbook-article
Character-sketch	Haiku	Product-description	Thank-you-note
Chart-explained	How-to directions	Profiles	Timeline
Cheer	Inner-monologue	Prologue	Top-ten list
Class-discussion	Interview	Psych-evaluation	Transcripts
Classified-ad	Introduction	Quiz	Tribute
Comedy-routine	Invoice/Receipt	Quote	Trip-itinerary
Comic-strip	Jokes	Recipe	Tweet
Commands/instructions	Lab-report	Reminders	Vignette
Complaint-letter	Lectures	Report-card	Vows
Contest-entry	Letters	Research	& MORE ...
Contract	Liner-notes	Restaurant-menu	
Correspondence	Lists	Resume	
Critique	Magazine-article	Rhetorical-analysis	
Dear reader	Manga	Rules	
Debate	Map-explanation	Sales-ad	
Definitions	Medical-reports	Schedule	
Dialogue	Memoir	Science-article	
Diary	Movie-review	Screenplay	
Directions	Music	Scripts	
Dream-narrative	Myth	Self-reflection	
	Myth-busters	Snapchats	

GENRE IDEAS

Achieving Balance

“The nature of multi-genre is many. One genre cannot oppressively dominate or the paper loses balance and variety.” – Tom Romano, *Fearless Writing*



Needs flow, rhythm, motion from one genre to the next to achieve one cohesive piece. You might have to work at this – to experiment, to rearrange, to add on or be willing to scrap.