

LE2 - Genres from Text

Name

120-X

Writing strategies we're working on here:

Rhetorical analysis: Analyzing audience expectations; making conscious choices in writing that take those expectations into consideration. **Critical thinking, reading, and writing:**

Analyzing written texts, reading critically, using evidence from texts to develop/support analysis.

Processes: Working through a process to develop your ideas, developing flexible strategies through writing, reflecting on writing processes. **Use of Conventions:** Learning citation practices, editing.

Possible readings for this assignment:

Malcolm X, "Saved"

June Jordan, "Nobody..."

Darcy Frey, "The Last Shot"

John Berger, "Ways of Seeing"

Langston Hughes, "Theme for English B"

Deborah Tannen, "There is No Unmarked Woman"

As you've seen in LE1 (and will see in the readings for this assignment), genres offer different possibilities for communicating with different audiences. In this assignment we'll work with that idea within the a reading from the class and within your own experience.

Ultimately, in this assignment you'll want to write about the rules (or 'conventions') for interacting with two genres – one that one of the authors of the readings for this assignment used, and one that you use in your everyday writing and/or reading life – and about what possibilities, with what audiences, stem from those genres.

First, choose one of the readings for this assignment that you'd like to work with in more detail. Then, look carefully at the genres that are used *within* that reading. Each includes more than one – perhaps you'll want to call them something like "academic essays" (although you don't necessarily need to); they also include other genres of work within them.

Next, think carefully about the genres that are used to make up this reading. What are their rules (or conventions)? How, when, where, and why do you think the author(s) of the reading use the conventions that they do where they do?

In addition to analyzing genres for this assignment, you also will need to make some choices about the genre(s) that you use for the submission draft here. You can certainly write a "straight" academic essay; if you like, you may use up to two additional genres for that submission draft. In your reflection letter, you'll need to address why you decided to use the genre(s) that you did and what conventions you kept in mind as you wrote them, as well.

Short essay A:

Focus on one genre in one of the readings for this assignment. What are its rules (conventions)? How, when, where, and why do you think the author used these rules when s/he did?

Short essay B:

In this SE, play around with the idea of genre. Pick one of the genres used in the text that you're analyzing for this assignment. Rewrite your SE A in that genre. Then, analyze your work. What rules (conventions) were you aware of as you wrote? Did you find the experience more, or less, rewarding? Do you think your SE is more, or less, effective, and for whom? Why?

Possible Things to do as process work:

Textual interventions, a la Rob Pope (*Textual Interventions*): in class, look at one piece (say, an advertisement) and analyze/ "read" it as closely as possible together. Then, change one aspect of it—something as big as "intended audience," or something as small as a word or a color. Then, describe and analyze what effects those changes made and why.

Group work: do the "scenario"/point of view activity where everyone writes in response to an imagined event (say, a car accident): one person writes as the college-aged student who has to explain to her parents why the car is totaled and what happened; one person writes as the police officer who came upon the scene; one person writes as the insurance agent, etc.. Each writer needs to choose a specific audience, purpose, genre—then, after they've written, share and discuss what they chose to write in and why.— what purposes does that genre serve? Why and how?

Genre museum—bringing in genres and displaying them (possibly with cross-class visits)

Deconstruct the components of different genres. Look at magazine advertisements, Homestarrunner.com, other sources