

Multi-Genre Project

English 10
Mrs. M. Canam

Purpose: The purpose of any project is to explore and learn about a subject and to extend our thinking. This multi-genre project accomplishes that purpose, but it also gives you the opportunity to express your topic in a more creative way than a regular research paper.

What is a genre?

A genre is a type of text. A poem is a genre. A traditional research paper is a genre. A newspaper editorial is a genre, so are plays and diaries and cartoons and billboards. The list is almost endless... (see below)

What is a multi-genre project?

It's a collection of pieces written in a variety of genres, informed by your research on a particular subject. A multi-genre project is personal, creative, and can't be copied from some other source. It involves you, as a writer, deciding what information is important and how it should be presented to the reader.

What are some genres I might use?

You could write an editorial, a poem, a dialogue between characters, a letter, or a debate. You could include a collage, a poster, a book or album cover. You will have much choice about what to include; but beware -- this should not be a haphazard collage of disjointed stuff. You must connect the genres to your central topic. Your creative efforts must be informed by solid research.

But I've never done anything like this before. What do I do?

You'll need to be fully engaged in your topic -- don't approach it as if you were on a scavenger hunt to find information to spit back in an "academic" paper, because you're not. Instead, you'll need to think about what you want to do and how best to do that. Start with the following:

Decide on a central topic:

Choose a topic that interests you. You could write about an idea that you studied in history, science, or health; not just in English. All topics must be researchable. Therefore, a very personal topic, such as your dog, would not be a good choice. While you could research information about a breed of dog, there would be little else you could research.

While you need to make sure your topic is broad enough to research, you also must be sure that it is specific as well. You should try to find a happy medium. Begin with the general idea and move to the specific. For example, let's say you want to write about the Holocaust. This is your **general subject area**. Next narrow it down to a **specific subject**, such as concentration camps. Perhaps your **focus or special interest** could be how concentration camps impacted people's lives for generations. If you need help with this just let me know; I would be happy to help.

All topics must be approved! Do not begin work until you have verified your topic with Mrs. Canam.

Questions to ask yourself about your topic:

1. Am I truly interested in this topic?
2. Do I have access to enough information?
3. Is the subject too broad?

4. Is there a human element to the topic? Can I personalize it? Could I create a character who would represent the main problems, struggles, or ideas of this topic?

What does it look like?

Your multi-genre project should be assembled in a folder or binder and will include the following elements:

Title Page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • name, date, course, teacher, your focus or special interest • be creative – let your title page reflect you and your topic
Table of Contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the five genre pieces by the title you have assigned to each and the genres they represent
“Dear Reader” Letter of Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • greet your audience with background and informational material that will guide them through your project and what they need to know before reading your project • you can explain why you chose the topic • explain how your reader is going experience your project • indicate the unifying device* that links all of the pieces • you can comment in general terms about what you have learned
Five Genre Pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a title for each piece and identify the genre • each piece should inherently communicate the purpose and style of the genre you have chosen • use a unifying device to provide cohesion • the body of your multi-genre is composed of these various pieces that you create to help your reader understand your subject
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your conclusion should have its own page and should be at least one lengthy paragraph. • This is where you comment on your topic as a whole and wrap your topic up.
Works Cited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you must have a minimum of FOUR sources from a variety of information types • choosing from a variety of sources makes for a strong project. Possible sources include: books, magazines, newspapers, radio, transcripts, archives, videos, websites, personal interviews. ***Your sources must be <u>credible</u> sources. • MLA format

Getting ready to research:

- make a list of what you already know about this topic
- make a list of what you need to know or want to find out. This will help you focus your topic and provide direction for your research.

Due Date: Friday, March 13

In-Class work periods: February 6, 12, 19, 26, March 11, 12

A Brief List of Genres:

- Journal Entries
- Personal Letter
- Eulogy
- Email/text exchange
- Police report
- Picture book/children's story
- Advice column
- Sports column
- Inner Monologue Representing Internal Conflicts
- Personal Essay
- Poetry/ Song Lyrics (must be original)
- Auto/biographical writing
- Business Letter or Correspondence
- Persuasive or Advocacy Letter
- Speech or Debate
- Textbook Article
- Science Article or Report
- Business Article or Report
- Lesson Plan
- Short Scene from a Play with Notes for Stage Directions
- Short Scene from a Movie with Notes for Camera Shots
- Dialogue of a conversation between two or more people
- Short Story
- Magazine Story
- Ghost Story
- Myth, Tall Tale, or Fairy Tale
- Talk Show Interview or Panel
- Recipe and/or Description of Traditional Holiday Events
- Character Analysis or Case Study
- Comedy Routine or Parody
- Chart or Diagram with Explanation and Analysis
- Brochure or Newsletter
- Time Line or Chain of Events
- Map with Explanation and Analysis
- Magazine or TV Advertisement or Infomercial
- Travel Brochure Description
- How-To or Directions Booklet
- Local News Report
- Review and Poster for a Movie, Book, or TV Program
- Investigative report
- Board Game or Trivial Pursuit with Answers and Rules
- Comic Strip or Graphic Novel excerpt
- Newspaper or Magazine Feature/Human Interest Story
- News Program
- Podcast
- Tabloid Article