

# Multi-genre Research Project

*English 12, Mrs. Anderson*

## **Introduction:**

Welcome to the multi-genre research project. You're probably wondering: "What is a multi-genre research project?" Well, rather than a single, extended piece of writing about a single perspective on a topic (traditional research paper), a multi-genre research project is a collection of pieces—a cohesive series of written pieces in a variety of genres that look at different angles on the same question, topic, or theme. A multi-genre project is personal, creative, and can't be copied from some other source. It involves you, the writer, making conscious decisions about what information or ideas are important, and how it should be presented to the reader.

The purpose of this project is to develop your research skills, strengthen your writing skills, review how to document sources, explore writing in different genres, and examine your ideas about heroes and heroism. At the end of this project, you will have a product of your learning and research that will show both critical thinking and creativity.

<b>Traditional Research Paper</b>	<b>Multi-genre Research Paper</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• single, extended prose piece</li><li>• begins with a thesis</li><li>• cohesion imposed from the start</li><li>• writer remains dispassionate about subject</li><li>• approaches topic from a single perspective</li><li>• follows conventions of formal prose writing</li><li>• usually consists of only text</li><li>• usually done as a solitary individual assignment</li><li>• handed in to teacher</li><li>• sometimes viewed as drudgery by students</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• cohesive series of pieces in variety of genres</li><li>• begins with an interest</li><li>• cohesion developed along the way</li><li>• helps researcher recover lost voices</li><li>• writer personally engaged; opinions encouraged</li><li>• takes many angles on topic</li><li>• broadens the range of acceptable writing styles</li><li>• artwork, graphics, design and packaging accompany text</li><li>• involves much small-group work, peer response, and sharing</li><li>• performed in readers' theatre celebration</li><li>• often becomes students' favorite and proudest achievement</li></ul>

## Multi-genre research project

### ***What types of genres can you use?***

Your multi-genre project will contain a variety of genres that are informative, literary/creative, and functional. You will have a lot of choice about what to include. But BEWARE—this should not be a haphazard collage of disjointed stuff; you must connect the genres and what they represent with a central, significant theme or idea (thesis). Your creative efforts must be informed by solid research, including research about the genres themselves.

<b>Informational</b>	<b>Literary/Creative</b>	<b>Functional</b>
Biography	Television show script	Personal note/letter
News article (feature or hard news)	Play	Diary
Magazine article	Song lyrics	Memo(s)
Sports Story	Poems	Email exchange
Informative essay	Comic Strip/comic book	Facebook page
Expository essay	Editorial Cartoon	Eulogy
Argumentation essay	Dramatic scene/ One-Act play	Advertisement (display/print)/ Action figure ad
Transcript of an interview	Poem for 2 voices	Classified ad
Comparison/Contrast essay	Picture book/children's story	Advice column
Advice column	Monologue	Police report
Obituaries	Short story	Tabloid article
	Myth	Resume/cover letter
Other?	Fairy tale	Letter to the editor/ editorial article
	Fable	Eyewitness account
	Other?	Encyclopedia entry
		Movie review
		Other?

As you research & create, you need to consider your topic and think about what genre/s would be effective to communicate your ideas/impressions. Before you select each genre for your project, you'll need to ask yourself, "Why am I choosing this genre? What do I want to be able to say or express through this genre?" If you can't answer that question, you are not ready to work on it. Your choices must be intentional and have a purpose.

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### **Requirements:**

- 5 genres (Total words: 1500 minimum)
  - 2 informative genres (min. 800 words total)
  - at least one of each other genre (literary/creative, technical)
- Connectors between each piece to create unity (pictures, graphs, diagrams, song lyrics, quotations, interesting facts, section titles, fables, stories, etc.)
- Works cited page and in-text citations
  - MLA format
  - 8 resources (reliable, relevant)
  - At least 10 in-text citations throughout paper
- Title page/cover page
  - Title (not label)
  - Your name
  - Date (due date)
  - Teacher & course names
- Table of contents
- Introductory letter to reader
  - What does the reader need to know before reading your paper?
  - Why is this topic important?
  - How did you choose your topic?
  - Include a thesis statement (underlined)
- Endnotes
  - Explanation of/reasoning for each piece and discussion of resources used (both cited in text and/or for inspiration)
- Self-assessment
  - What surprised you during the process of writing your multi-genre paper?
  - What did you learn about writing in different genres as a way of inquiring into your topic and communicating what you know?
  - Describe the strongest and weakest parts of your paper and explain why you categorize each as such.
  - What grade do you feel you deserve on the project and why?
- Research notes coded somehow to reflect (see dialectical note-taking form):
  - Information used in paper
  - Personal thoughts/reflections about information
  - Possible genres inspired from information
  - Handed in separately

All elements will be submitted in a three-ring binder (or similar method of presentation). You *MAY* choose to collect the elements of your final project in an electronic format, if that is where your interests and strengths lie. Please speak to me if you wish to do so. Students will present one or more elements of their project in class (details later) and binders will also be displayed for staff and/or public viewing.

## Multi-genre research project

### **Deadlines:**

We will be working on this project for approximately six weeks. There will be a number of mini-deadlines imposed throughout the project to help keep you on track. You will be provided with a checklist of those deadlines. Each item will be checked on the date listed, and each completed task will be worth 5 points. Each day the task is late will be a reduction of 1 point.

### **Grading:**

- Rubrics will be provided for the final project and presentation.
- Mini-deadlines will be entered in the “Activities” category (10%), for a total of \_\_\_\_\_ points.
- The final project will be worth \_\_\_\_\_ points and will be entered into the “Assessment” category (90%)
- The presentation will be worth \_\_\_\_\_ points and will be entered into the “Assessment” category (90%)

### **Examples:**

This is the first time this type of project has been completed in English 12; therefore, examples specific to THIS assignment do not yet exist. Undoubtedly, many of your projects will serve as excellent examples for future years 😊.

However, by looking over multi-genre projects done for other assignments in other school settings, it is possible to get an idea of what a completed multi-genre project looks like.

Visit the following websites to see examples:

- <http://www.users.muohio.edu/romanots/mgrpapers.htm>
- [http://www.pschulze.com/forms2003/fall\\_2002\\_multigenre\\_webs.htm](http://www.pschulze.com/forms2003/fall_2002_multigenre_webs.htm)
- <http://cyberenglish9.pbworks.com/w/page/25144452/2010%20Living%20Histories%20Projects>
- <http://writing.colostate.edu/gallery/multigenre/toc.htm>