

From Reading to Writing:

Strategies to support genre awareness

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**Genre and
Genre
Awareness**

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Developing
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**Applying Genre
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Write**

**What is
a genre?**

A genre is a socially recognized category of communication that follows specific conventions, structures, and patterns. It guides the production, interpretation, and organization of content, shaping how messages are conveyed and understood within particular cultural, disciplinary, or social contexts. Academic examples include: literature reviews, case studies, research proposals.

Academic Genres

- Literature Review
- Research Article/Paper
- Case Study
- Case Analysis
- Annotated Bibliography
- Research Proposal
- Thesis/Dissertation
- Position Paper
- Abstract
- Conference Paper
- Research Poster
- Policy Memo
- White Paper
- Response Paper
- Book Review



What is genre awareness?

Genre awareness involves recognizing and understanding the conventions, structure, and purposes of different types of writing within academic disciplines.

Key Concepts



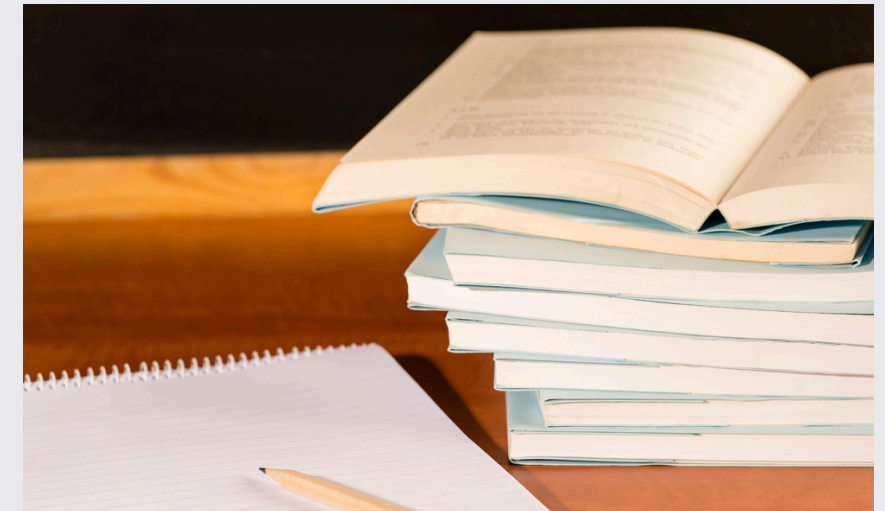
Rhetorical Situation

The context in which writing takes place, including purpose, audience, setting, writer (and their relationship to subject), reason for writing, and subject matter.



Genre Conventions

Standardized ways of organizing and presenting information in a genre. Example academic genres include: research articles, literature reviews,



Disciplinary Norms

Refer to specific expectations and conventions within a field of study regarding how to structure, present, and support arguments, including use of evidence and citations practices.

Active Reading Strategies

Analyze the structure and organization

Identify common structures, pay attention to how different sections (e.g. introduction, methods) are organized within the genre.

Focus on Language

Look for recurring phrases, terminology, and sentence structure used. You can draw upon this in your writing by mimicking until you understand the tone and formality expected.

Outline the Text

Create outlines of several texts of the same genre to identify commonalities and differences in structure. This will help identify common genre conventions.

Identify Rhetorical Moves

Note how writers introduce their topics, make arguments, cite sources, transition between sections, and conclude the genre you're learning.

Identifying Genre Features

Understanding the Genre

- what is the primary purpose of the genre? (e.g. inform, persuade)
- Who is the intended audience?
- What are the key characteristics of the genre (e.g. structure, format)

Structure and Elements

- What are the common sections or components of this genre (e.g. introduction, methods)
- How are arguments or ideas typically organized? (e.g. chronologically)
- What types of evidence or sources are typically used? (e.g. empirical data)

Writing and Style

- What is the typically writing style or tone? (e.g. formal, analytical)
- How does the genre handle citations and references?
- What are common phrases or terminology used? (e.g. policy implications)

Purpose and Function

- How does the genre contribute to the broader field? (e.g. informing policy)
- How does the genre address counterarguments or alternative perspectives?
- What are the expectations for originality and critical analysis (e.g. independent thought)

Identifying Genre Features

Practical Application

- What are common challenges with writing in this genre? (e.g. maintaining objectivity, being concise)
- How do writers transition between sections or ideas? (e.g. clear topic sentences)
- What strategies can be used to ensure clarity and precision in this genre (e.g. defining terms, avoiding jargon)

Evaluation

- What are the common formats and where is this genre published or presented (e.g. journals)
- What are the criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the genre (e.g. relevance, argument)?
- How can one assess the impact of the piece written in this genre (e.g. citation metrics, policy changes, academic recognition)?

Rhetorical moves are strategies that writers use to effectively communicate their ideas and achieve their purpose within the conventions of a specific genre. These moves help structure the text, engage the audience, and enhance the persuasiveness of arguments.



Examples of Rhetorical Moves

Move: Establishing the importance of the topic

Example: “In recent years, the impact of technology on student learning has garnered significant attention due to the increasingly integration of digital tools in classrooms.”

Move: Presenting the research question or thesis statement

Example: “This study examines the relationship between digital learning platforms and student engagement, aiming to provide a comprehensive analysis of contributing factors.”

Move: Stating a clear argument

Example: “Data suggest that personalized learning technologies improve student outcomes. Students using adaptive software achieve higher test scores and greater motivation, indicating these tools enhance educational effectiveness.”

Examples of Rhetorical Moves

Move: Using transitional phrases to guide the reader

Example: “Building on the evidence presented in the previous section, this chapter explores the impact of digital tools on student collaboration and engagement”

Move: Summarizing previous points before introducing new ones

Example: “Having discussed the benefits of personalized learning, we now turn to the challenges of digital equity in education.”

Move: Restating the main findings or arguments

Example: “In summary, the study highlights the significant role of technology in enhancing student learning outcomes.”

Let's Practice!



Collins, C., & Palacios, M. (2020). 21st-century school funding: Equity, adequacy, and the role of the state. *Peabody Journal of Education*, 95(2), 189-202.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/0161956X.2020.1745613>

Collins and Palacios explore the complexities of school funding in the 21st century, focusing on issues of equity and adequacy. They analyze the role of state governments in addressing disparities in funding between wealthy and underfunded schools, highlighting the impact of these disparities on student outcomes. The article provides a thorough examination of current funding models and suggests policy recommendations for creating more equitable and adequate funding systems. This source is particularly useful for those studying educational finance and policy, as it offers a contemporary analysis backed by recent data, making it relevant for understanding ongoing debates about school funding in the United States.

Jenkins, J., & Womack, A. (2022). Charter school expansion and the impact on public school performance: Evidence from a decade of reform. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 44(2), 147-172.
<https://doi.org/10.3102/01623737211069685>

Jenkins and Womack investigate the effects of charter school expansion on public school performance, analyzing data from a decade of education reforms across multiple states. The authors assess how the growth of charter schools impacts student achievement in traditional public schools, focusing on both positive and negative outcomes. The study highlights the complex interplay between school choice policies and public education, offering policy recommendations to mitigate potential adverse effects on public school systems. This article is particularly valuable for education policymakers and researchers interested in understanding the broader implications of charter school policies, providing evidence-based insights into the ongoing debate over school choice.



Guiding Questions for Genre Analysis



- What is the primary purpose of the genre (e.g. inform, persuade, analyze)?
- Who is the intended audience for this genre (e.g. scholars, policy makers)?
- What are the key characteristics or conventions of this genre (e.g. structure, format, tone)?
- What are the common sections or components of this genre (e.g. introduction, methods)?
- How are arguments or ideas typically organized within this genre (e.g. chronological)?
- What types of evidence or sources are typically used in this genre (e.g. empirical data)?
- What is the typical writing style or tone used in this genre (e.g. formal, analytical)?
- How does this genre handle citations?
- What are common phrases or terminology?
- How does the genre contribute to the broader field of study (e.g. advancing knowledge)?
- How does the genre address counterarguments or alternative perspectives?
- What are common challenges with writing this genre (e.g. maintaining objectivity, conciseness)?
- How do writers transition between sections or ideas (e.g. clear topic sentences)?
- What are the common formats where this genre is published or presented?
- What are the criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of this genre?
- What observations can you make about rhetorical moves (e.g. how points are summarized, transitions, common phrases, stating a clear argument, presenting research questions, evidence used and how)

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Making a Plan: Writing and Research Junctures

Understanding the assignment

- Purpose and learning objectives
- Expectations and requirements
- Deliverable and evaluation

Analyzing research

- Respond to guiding questions
- Note patterns, trends, themes
- Identify key stakeholders
- Gather adequate background information on the research context

Determining focus or subject

- Brainstorming
- Exploratory research
- Preliminary research

Developing an argument or thesis

- Develop an argument or problem statement based on research findings
- Identify key evidence (data, statistics, etc.) to support claims
- respond to the W-questions to provide adequate context

Make a research plan

- Identify guiding questions
- Identify problem or policy
- Identify research needs and goals
- Determine research criteria

Understanding the Genre

- Identify genre structure and key conventions
- Identify key phrases, rhetorical moves,
- Identify your audience and their needs
- Create an outline using the genre structure
- breakdown each section's purpose

- Create a system to stay organized
- Review source abstracts or summaries to determine relevance
- Maintain annotations of key findings, data, statistics, etc.

Conducting research

First draft

- Develop and refine your thesis/main point
- Identify relevant and needed background information and content for each section
- Mimic (at first) identified rhetorical moves

Q & A