

**How did your understanding of genre change over the course of the semester? Choose one moment when you realized that genre is not just a format, but a way of thinking, persuading, and participating in a community**

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My understanding of genre has fundamentally changed over the course of this semester, from practically never touching anything other than a lab report or whatever short form essay they had me doing in high school, to learning how to make posters, PSA's, websites, and artwork. I'm now aware that all of these formats have the possibility to show the same information in different ways; they each are able to have their own strengths and weaknesses when conveying a certain topic or piece of information. By changing the format of writing, it can change everything fundamentally. I feel I best learned this when creating my artwork for the multimodal unit project. I found out how to convey a large amount of information through no words, or at least I hope I did. I have never taken an art class in my life. That experience really helped me branch out for the rest of the modes within that project, or at least it did initially before I had to change my PSA. The audience is just as important to writing as the format of writing, as both interact differently based on various factors. For example, when creating the argumentative essay, my audience was researchers in my future field. All the information that I provided was very rich, compared to the much simpler information that was put into the multimodal project, which had the general public as the audience. Using both in tandem is what allows for effective presentation of information and persuasion; using only one will only get you so far. For the community aspect, I would say I changed the most. Throughout this semester, my projects have evolved within the course, but I would say that the greatest effect it had was on how I approached the community around my daily life. This course allowed me to help publish local magazines using the information and strategies learned, and create promotional material for some of the school events hosted by APPS. I would say I have learned a lot because of all the interacting elements of this semester, and really lucked out in realizing I can do a lot more with writing and research than I initially would have thought of coming here.

**How did your research approach evolve from the beginning of the semester to the end?**

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At the start of the semester, I had never used my major-specific citation or really anything major-specific in terms of research before. Developing my understanding of what my major actually will write about and how they document research really helped me create an understanding of the mindset I need to get into to further develop my skills of research within the civil engineering field. Early on I didn't know how to find specific research. I only really knew how to use Google, and learning how to use more complex research-oriented tools allowed me to find information I would have never otherwise. After the first genre project, I had looked back upon it and realized that I felt my information didn't reflect the work I wanted to put forward,

and because of that, I was able to improve the research, instantly making my projects feel like genuine research on a topic. The change between the start and end was probably one of the more dramatic aspects of change over this semester.

**How did your writing process change across projects? What strategies did you carry forward from one assignment to the next?**

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My writing process over the course of the projects changed very significantly. During the start of the semester, I was still getting used to the college writing style, as I am a freshman, I was very fresh to my RC1000 knowledge, and going from that course to this allowed me to carry skills fast over to my projects within this course. My very first project, the Genre unit project, was the most significant comparison to how I normally wrote before this lecture. When comparing that work to my personal favorite, the argumentative unit project, the difference is stark, not only in the way I started writing, but in the way I learned to adapt my writing. From the first project, I would say I carried out my research and almost completely changed how I wrote. I started organizing short snippets of information on a OneNote document and responded to questions I thought of when reading, creating bullet points of how my writing could reference and call back to information within the website that I created with the research. The method I wanted to use was to allow for a non-linear reading of the research, all of which could be consumed in almost any order. For my first attempt, I would say it was successful. From the Argumentative to the genre, I kept both my new way of organizing present and my previous method of research, but ran into issues when trying to adapt my content into a more general audience. This issue pushed me to further understand how the audience reflects how much and in what ways information can be presented. Because of that, I found a method to adapt to the audience better, and it was as simple as writing it on a paper and asking my roommate if he could tell me what it was about; surprisingly, it worked very well. But that wasn't a permanent solution, and I quickly found that to ensure I was able to adapt to all kinds of audiences with my writing, I would need a solid method for the future. This real method turned out to look for examples on YouTube, finding how they presented to the audience, and seeing what they left out and what they referenced. It helped a lot more than I initially thought.

**How will the skills you practiced in this course transfer to future coursework in your discipline?**

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If I'm being fully honest, they won't that much. Sadly, the engineering field is mainly on-site problem-solving or blueprints. It's not often you get opportunities to write research papers unless you are one of the most respected. The only real takeaway I can transfer to my future career is the methods I have learned for research, which is very useful for checking information within the engineering field. Even if it won't directly transfer all the skills learned in this course to my field, they will help me throughout the rest of college, hopefully. I've looked ahead at my

courses, and a majority of them are either coding, simulation, or structural analysis; most of them have practically zero writing, and a majority of them are just math and math and math and more math.

**Which project best represents the kind of writing or composing you anticipate doing in your future academic or professional life?**

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My future work seems to be almost all planning documents, either drawn blueprints, or short memos and instructions, not much of my future professional work directly reflects the methods that I used within my projects over this semester. This was partially intentional on my part, as I had grown tired of writing lab reports and wanted to do something more creative. If I were to choose one of the projects that represents what my future work looks like, it would be the genre project with the journal form. It's similar to what a lab report looks like, but also quite different. There was a genre I almost chose that would have reflected my future quite well if I had chosen it, that being the research paper, which could have been almost one-to-one with future engineering-based research papers I could work on or help with.

**How did this course help you see yourself as a participant in your field rather than just a student completing assignments?**

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The research that was done within this class helped me observe what people in my field did day to day, and what problems they ran into often. The aspect of the course that I refer to when thinking about what I learned the most would be the TED talks and the Argumentative project. Both of them are helping me understand and observe a larger perspective that I need to take on as an engineering student in the future. During those projects, I actually felt very connected to what my future could look like. It was very exciting to see people succeed where I also wish to. Because of that, It's definitely inspired me to put a lot more effort into researching not just topics for classes but for personal interests.

**What is one strength you discovered in your writing or research that you plan to continue developing?**

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I plan on continuing to develop my research skills. My biggest priority in academics will end up being how well I can take in research and get results from it. So I wish to continue learning more research methods and expanding my view on what can or cannot be considered research. I found a lot of enjoyment in simply reading the research papers and seeing what people thought of and what they argued about a subject, and it got really interesting when I fully developed my topic of clean energy infrastructure. I was finding all these differing solutions for

problems that I didn't even know existed and it intrigued me endlessly. On top of being extremely interested in researching, I feel that it was my greatest strength throughout this semester. I was only really able to enjoy my projects because of the research that they required.