

WHAT WE FEAR: MONSTERS & MISFITS MULTI-GENRE RESEARCH PROJECT

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 monsters, misfits and culture

At the end of this project, you will have a product of your learning and research that will show both critical thinking and creativity.

Traditional Research Paper	Multi-Genre Research Project
single, extended prose piece	cohesive series of pieces in variety of genres
begins with a thesis	begins with an interest
cohesion imposed from the start	cohesion developed along the way
writer remains dispassionate about subject	writer personally engaged; opinions encouraged
approaches topic from a single perspective	takes many angles on topic
follows conventions of formal prose writing	broadens the range of acceptable writing styles
usually consists of only text	artwork, graphics, design and packaging accompany text
usually done as a solitary individual assignment	involves much small-group work, peer response, and sharing
handed in to teacher	shared with the community
sometimes viewed as drudgery by students	often becomes students' favorite and proudest achievement

Genre

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.

Informational	Literary/Creative	Functional
Biography	Television show script	Personal note/letter
News Article	Play	Diary/journal/blog
Magazine Article	Song lyrics	Memo(s)
Sports Story	Poems	Email or text exchange
Informative Essay	Comic strip/book	Facebook page
Expository Essay	Editorial Cartoon	Eulogy
Argumentation Essay	Dramatic scene	Advertisement
Transcript of an interview	Poem for 2 voices	Classified ad
Compare/contrast Essay	Children's book	Advice column
Advice Column	Short Story	Police Report
Obituaries	Myth	Tabloid Article
<u>Others</u> *see me for category	Fairy Tale	Resume/cover letter
	Fable	Letter to the editor/editorial article
	<u>Others</u> *see me for category	Eyewitness account
		Encyclopedia entry
		Movie review
		Medical report
		Case study
		<u>Others</u> *see me for category

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.

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

Website & Homepage

The website should have a cohesive theme that ties to your topic and should look “professional.”

In addition, your homepage will consist of:

Title

Your name

Teacher & course name

A short video introducing yourself and the project topic with your thesis.

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 (italicized)

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:

Information used in paper

Personal thoughts/reflections about information

Possible genres inspired from information

Students projects will be shared and introduction videos will be viewed by the whole class.

Websites will be displayed for community and public viewing.

Deadlines:

We will be working on this project for approximately six weeks - all work must be completed by (Maroon) Thursday January 11th or (Gold) Friday January 12th.

There will be a 5 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 50 points. Each day the task is late will be a reduction of 10 points.

Grading:

Rubrics will be provided for the final project.

Mini-deadlines will be entered as a Project Grade for a total of 250 points.

The Final Project will be worth 500 points as a Project Grade.

Examples:

This is the first time this type of project has been completed in Monsters & Misfits; therefore, examples specific to THIS assignment do not yet exist (I am currently building one and hope to have it for you after Thanksgiving break). 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. However, keep in mind that our projects will be web-site based and many of these are paper based.

Visit the following websites to see examples:

<http://www.users.muohio.edu/romanots/mgrpapers.htm>

<http://cyberenglish9.pbworks.com/w/page/25144452/2010%20Living%20Histories%20Projects>

<http://writing.colostate.edu/gallery/multigenre/toc.htm>