

Compare/Contrast Genre Analysis Essay

In this unit, we have been working on analyzing texts in different genres. For this assignment you will be finding and comparing two or more texts written on the same subject in different genres. The purpose of this essay is to allow you to gain a better understanding of the importance of genre and discourse community knowledge to writers. It will allow you to better understand the ways writing differs among genres and allow you to strengthen your skills writing in the genre of textual analysis (a form of academic essay).

Task:

Locate and save or photocopy at least two texts on the same subject from different genres (see the examples passed out in class). For example, you could find an article within a scholarly journal (whose audience will be knowledgeable in the field) related to your major or field of interest and then find an article on the same topic that was written for a general audience. Alternatively, you could look at an editorial on a political issue, a government report on the issue, and several message board posts or letters to the editor in response to the editorial.

After you have analyzed each text, do a comparison of the texts considering each of the four genre features we have been analyzing with sample genres. (Pro tip: Use the heuristic for analyzing genres we worked on together in class.) Once you have done the genre analysis, consider how you could generalize your findings about these genres in a 1400-1600 word academic essay. Include the two articles you are analyzing and bibliographic citations to these articles in your completed project.

Evaluation Criteria:

Your essay should follow the conventions of an academic essay in the humanities, with a clear focusing thesis in the introduction and supporting points developed in the remainder of the essay. The structure will follow a logical thematic progression from the thesis statement. Paragraphs will begin with a summarizing topic sentence and transition words or phrases will provide continuity between paragraphs (personally, I tend to like them at the end, leading into the next paragraph, but sometimes they are more fluid at the beginning of the next paragraph - your call). The conclusion should summarize key points and point the reader toward something to ponder.

Due:

shared with me (seedling89@gmail.com) through Google Drive **prior to class Monday 9/15** (which leaves you no excuse to miss class, right?). Guidance for setting up and using Google Drive is posted in week 3 on ilearn.

(date edited from original version handed out in class)