



The Uncharted Territory of Multi-Genre Writing

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Multigenre writing is the practice of having students write in a variety of genres for the purpose of better understanding a given topic. Students may create short stories, poems, songs, dialogues, articles, maps, “primary” documents, reflection pieces, and museum displays in response to a text or to present information on a topic.

Why Multi-Genre?

- When trying to understand something, you don't look at it from just one side. **You try and examine it from as many angles as possible.**
- Middle and high school students obtain information through fragments, but often only use one lens. **Using a variety of lenses to contribute a variety of fragments will create a more cohesive learning experience.**
- **Middle schoolers need opportunities to explore and projects that will feed their curiosity.** They are busy learning their identities and their relationship to the world. Independent research is important, but so is reflection.

Challenges and Solutions

- Students develop a habit of regurgitating information or parroting what the teacher has shown them. **We want students to interact with the ideas we feed them. Multi-genre writing provides the student with several outlets to do so.**
- Students struggle with research because it is a monumental task and difficult to connect to. **Multi-genre writing allows them to mold the information they find into something that matters to them.** These projects are also less intimidating for first time researchers.
- Students place inherent value on facts when they need to be thinking critically about whether these facts are significant, how important information is presented for consumption, and how these facts relate to the real world and the student's own life. **Multi-genre allows for a higher level of critical thinking than other forms of research.**

Using Multi-Genre Writing

- Can be applied to a key text from the classroom or for basic research projects
- **More adaptable and engaging than the research paper**
- Still teaches essential research skills and applications
- Stimulates student curiosity and forges real-life connections with subject materials
- Has the possibility for expansion into a presentation project, which teaches **valuable public speaking skills**; this is not possible with a research paper
- Can work for **English, History, or Science**.
- Assessment focuses on the research and presentation of the information, not on the topic or the number/type of pieces included