

MULTI-GENRE RESEARCH PAPER:
The Constitution, The Bill of Rights, How to Become a U.S. Citizen

This is a chance to pursue a passion in your intellectual/emotional/spiritual life, a chance to strive to answer a question involving a topic of consuming interest to you and to communicate your learning through a multi-genre research project, where you get at the factual, the emotional, and the imaginative. This is a time to try the untried and to be expansive.

Choose a person, idea, topic, trend, era, cultural phenomenon, movement, thing, place . . . and become the quintessential mad researcher, the wiggled out, completely immersed learner on the trail of information vital to achieving peace of mind and satisfying your insatiable curiosity.

Required Research Sources Of Your Inquiry:

- Your textbook
- Articles in the newspaper (I will bring in newspapers)
- Primary material: interviews, testimony, observations
- Internet sources*

*The Internet contains the good, the bad, and the ugly. It is democratic, but there is no screening for quality as there is in journals and books. There are wonderful databases available; there are also shallow, misleading websites. So gauge the quality and the depth of what you find in cyberspace. I definitely don't want you to simply paste material from a website into your paper. I want to see an original MGP from you, one grounded in a research understanding of your topic. I want to see you expand your knowledge about some subject, maybe even your wisdom. I want to see you stretch and refine your writing skills and powers of communication, see you put to use some of that advice about writing with voice in *Crafting Authentic Voice*. I want to read your paper and be informed, but even more, I want to be *moved*.

Each genres or pieces your multi-genre project must contain:

- Brief informational essay, 250-350 words. Make this vivid, informational, straight-ahead writing. Boil your topic (your theme as related to the Constitution, your theme as related to the Bill of Rights, and your theme as related to citizenship.) down to essentials. This can appear as a straight mini-essay, or you can drop the exposition a form that fits your MGP.
- 3 Creative written genre
- 3 Creative visual genre
- Reference page
- Unifying elements (repeated images, genres answered, fragmented narrative, a detail mentioned on one genre and exploded and illustrated in a longer piece)

Include in your project all five bulleted items for each theme. Wherever else you go in the writing is up to you. Range as widely as you want in creating this paper. You go for this.

One tip: begin your research soon, make it part of your academic life, take notes and gather bibliographic information. Use class time to search and read. Immerse yourselves in your topic so the writing comes easy.

Here is a partial list of genres you might try:

First person narrative	Video story	
Third person narrative	Newspaper style	game rules
Stream of consciousness	hard news stories	interviews
Interior Monolog	feature stories	job application
Dialog (written in play format)	Dear Abby	letters/post cards
	comic strip	web site home page
	obituaries	map
Poems for two voices	editorials	parodies
Free verse	classified ad	headlines
Photograph poem		manifesto
Haiku	Reviews	prayer
Limerick	diary/journal entries	quotations
List poem	allegory	recipes
Dramatic monolog	character sketch	time lines
Song lyrics	brochure	
	bumper sticker	want ads
Alternate Style Pieces	announcements	menu
Labyrinthine sentences	directories	newscast
fragments	cast lists	
double voice	encyclopedia entries	good news/bad news
list	fable	

Adapted version of Tom Romano's work:
The Multigenre Paper

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