# Assignment #1: Analyzing a Genre

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate that you can define and analyze a genre. To do this, you’ll need to find three (3) examples of that genre; these examples should focus on similar topics. You will introduce and define the genre, compare the three examples, and discuss commonalities in the genre that exist among all of them. You can also discuss any differences that exist and explain why that might be. **The revised draft of your analysis should be 1,200-1,500 words.**

**Note 1:** Remember that when we talk about genre in this course, we are not only talking about literary genres - we are talking about genres of composition. Therefore, choosing something like the “mystery” or “science fiction” genre will not be useful. You can refer to our textbook for the types of genres we cover in this course.

**Note 2:** This is an analysis and not a list, so it is not enough to simply describe what each example has in common. Use the categories in “Rhetorical Situations” (p. 15) and “Genre Conventions” (p. 25) in *The Bedford Book of Genres (BBG)* to organize your paper.

**To be considered complete, your final draft should include:**

* **Your revised genre analysis essay of 1,200-1,500 wordss**
* **Your works cited or references page**
* **Your revision note, which includes a discussion of your revisions**

**To get started**, choose a genre that you are interested in talking about. It can be a genre that you’ve already covered in class so that you can really pick it apart.

After you’ve selected your genre, choose 3 examples of that genre. Read and annotate the examples to highlight anything interesting you notice about the rhetorical situations. Take notes on similarities or differences. Decide which categories of rhetorical situations and genre conventions you want to discuss.

**When you’re ready to begin** the writing process, think about the following:

* How is this genre defined? (It will be helpful to use citations!)
* What about the rhetorical situation and the genre conventions will you discuss?
* What does the audience expect when they see this type of genre?
* Why might someone composing a piece choose this genre?
* What are some similarities/differences in genre or rhetorical situation across all the examples? What evidence do you have from each example to “prove” this?
* Is there anything that doesn’t conform to the genre conventions? Why is it still part of the genre then?
* While you can discuss all these examples individually, be sure to tie everything back to your thesis statement in a conclusion. Don’t just end your assignment after you’ve analyzed your last example!

**Here is an example** of what you might do:

Let’s say you chose the genre of *how-to guides*. You would need to define what makes a *how-to guide* a *how-to guide*, and you can use the categories in “Rhetorical Situations” and “Genre Conventions” in *The Bedford Book of Genres (BBG)*.

You also have to find some examples. You can choose three recipes (how-to guides for making a meal), or three sets of instructions for setting up something technical (TV, WiFi, etc.).

Once you’ve chosen the examples, what are some similarities you notice? What are some differences? What’s worth writing about? Are there any observations you can condense into a thesis statement? If you have difficulty here, this is a great place to ask your instructor for help!

## Format & Layout

[Insert how you want students to format their paper. As the instructor, you can add more specificity to the prompt but do not change the scope or rigor of the assignment.]

Final submission should be as an Adobe PDF or Word file.

### Sample Assignment Outline

* Introduction
  + Introduce the assignment, the purpose, and the assignment’s structure
* Genre Definition
  + Explain what the genre is and how the genre uses style, medium, and design
  + Introduce the three examples you have of the genre
* Genre Examples and Analysis
  + Explain how the genre examples all reflect their shared genre’s conventions
  + Explain how the genre examples differ from each other and how these differences impact their style, design, and medium
* Genre Audiences, Purposes, and Contexts
  + Explain what the genre is used for and who uses the genre
  + Provide guidelines for when the genre should be used and when it should be avoided
* Conclusion

## Due Dates

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** First Draft **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Peer Review **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Final Draft

## Revision Note

When you are ready to submit your final draft in Week 5, you must include a revision note at the beginning of this document, before your final draft begins. Your revision note must explain the revisions you made to your original draft and why.

## Final Submission Checklist

* I have included a revision note as the first page of my assignment where I explain what revisions I made to my draft and why.
* I have defined the genre and introduced the specific categories of rhetorical situations and genre conventions that I will discuss.
* I have 3 examples of the same genre, and I discuss all of them.
* I have included a thesis statement that captures the focus of my assignment.
* I have provided evidence to support my thesis statement.
* I have included in-text citations and a Works Cited/Reference page.
* I have formatted my assignment [as my instructor has described.]
* I have saved the document as a .pdf or .docx file for submission.