

Genres and Genre-Specific Knowledge Reading Response

1. A genre is a type of communication that people use repeatedly in similar situations, with shared expectations and its purpose, structure, and style. Based on Bickmore's "Genre in the Wild," genres are actually social actions instead of categories. This means that people use them to accomplish things in specific contexts. Some examples may include a lab report, a text message, or a news article. These can all be considered genres because they follow a pattern that helps readers understand them.
2. Some common genres include academic essays, emails, cover letters, advertisements, or blog posts. Each of these has its own specific structure, purpose, and tone.
3. A genre set is a group of different genres use by one person or one role. This means that a collection of genres is used by one person/role to accomplish their individual tasks. An example may be a teacher using lesson plans, emails, and grading rubrics to complete their tasks. A genre system, however, is a network of genres that interact with each other across multiple people in a larger activity. This may include emails, reports, or meeting notes.
4. Tardy et al. describe genre-specific knowledge as the understanding needed to effectively read, write, and use a particular genre. They basically describe it as the "know-how" that helps someone participate successfully in that specific type of communication. These include knowing the purpose of the genre, understanding the audience, using appropriate language and tone, as well as understanding the audience.
5. Genre-specific knowledge relates to metacognition and multilingualism in many ways. Metacognition, or being aware of your own thinking, relates to genre-specific knowledge because genre-specific knowledge requires you to reflect on how you communicate. You may ask yourself, "is this tone appropriate?" or "am I following the structure correctly?" Genre-specific knowledge relates to multilingualism as well, since people who use multiple languages often switch between different genres across cultures and languages. For example, when constructing a formal email in English, there may be different rules of politeness, structure, or style than in another language.
6. One genre I find interesting is theater or musical script. When creating dialogue (or also songs for musicals), it is important that the script follows guidelines that make the audience feel engaged while also conveying the proper information regarding the storyline and plot. I find this genre especially interesting when considering that

for musicals, the songs must not only be related to the story but be sonically pleasing and use rhyming words.