

Creative Nonfiction and Science Writing
Unit 1 Major Assignment: Mini-Multigenre Project
Assignment Sheet

DUE DATE: _____

SUMMARY OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Report a single scientific fact for three different audiences, using three different genres. For instance, you might report a new finding about dolphins by creating a change.org petition, writing a letter to the NY Times editor, and posting a tweet on Twitter. Your mini-multigenre project should be prefaced by an introduction that answers the following three questions: What characterizes each piece's readership? How does each genre reflect this audience's needs? How do your three pieces reveal a diversity of science writing genres?

PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

This assignment puts into practice a key concept we learned in Unit 1: Writers are versatile, able to switch into different genres and to meet the needs of different audiences. Scientific findings are translated every day into a range of rhetorical situations, and our goal this semester is to learn how to make use of scientific research and develop our own versatility as writers. This assignment is a step toward that goal.

REQUIREMENTS AND GENERATIVE CONSTRAINTS

Introductory Statement

- The introductory statement should consist of at least two double-spaced pages of writing. The introductory statement can be written in the form of a letter addressed to the class.
- Indicate what you discovered through the process of writing and revising this project.
- Explicitly identify the three genres you are writing within, the three audiences you are writing for, and the conventions associated with each. (We will discuss this in class, and we will collaboratively brainstorm a list of genres and audiences that would be appropriate for this assignment.)
- Explain how you have met the requirements for the mini-multigenre project listed below.
- Based on our class discussions, answer all of the following three questions about the three pieces in your multigenre project: What characterizes each piece's readership? How does each genre reflect this audience's needs? How do your three pieces reveal a diversity of science writing genres?

Mini-Multigenre Project

- Your mini-multigenre project can be any length. The length of each piece should be appropriate to the genre you choose. One piece may be three sentences; another may be several pages in length, depending on the genres that you choose.
- Your mini-multigenre project should be attractive to the eye and easy to read.
- Each piece should be appropriate for its audience.
- Accurately and engagingly relay the scientific fact for each audience.
- Demonstrate your versatility as a writer. Like Callahan, write differently for the different audiences that you choose.
- Style, tone, word choice, verb tense, grammar, and spelling should be consistent within each piece. All departures from convention should have a clear purpose and should contribute to the meaning of the piece.