

One of the challenges of an advanced composition class is one of timing; if I am at the end of my academic career, how is what I am learning relevant and applicable? And at the heart of this question are two words; discourse and discipline.

Discourse, at its most basic level, refers to communication that occurs between two or more parties using either speech or writing. However, discourse changes as you enter new environments; hence, there are discourse communities which possess their own ways of communicating and writing to each other.

Disciplines as used here refer to a branch of knowledge. Disciplines can be seen as communities which have their own

The Genre Catalog

How do we apply our writing skills to the types of communication we encounter professionally?

For the Genre Catalog you will need to make conscious decisions about the genres you include, be able to explain why you chose them, how the genres incorporate research and persuasive communication, and how they inform your view on what communication in your field looks like. Additionally, writing may exist in several spheres, such as newspaper/magazine articles, creative works, workplace/professional writing, advocacy, visual genres, and personal/private genres.

discourse patterns, shared languages, and conventions. While most disciplines rely on verbal and written argument as a form of discourse, the specific conventions and strategies used in each vary. The genre catalog is a way to become familiar with the demands and conventions of our own individual disciplines.

What Does It Look Like?

For the Genre Catalog you will be working with a group (or discourse community) to compile a list of genres relevant to your discipline or field. What does communication look like in your profession? What are the requirements? Conventions? Audiences? Rhetorical situations? After compiling your list you will do a brief analysis of each genre. Additionally you will compile a selection of samples to illustrate each genre.

Samples: memo, workplace report, proposal, press release, research summary, magazine article, newspaper article, letter to the editor, journal entry, resume, speech, announcement, monologue, scene, billboard, ect. Stretch your ideas of what a 'text' looks like.