

from Gardner and Nesi, "A Classification of Genre Families in University Student Writing," *Applied Linguistics* 3024: 34/1.

Table 2: *The classification of genre families*

Genre families	Educational purpose/generic structure/genre network	Genres (examples)
1. Case Study	To demonstrate/develop an understanding of professional practice through the analysis of a single exemplar Description of a particular case, often multifaceted, with recommendations or suggestions for future action Typically corresponds to professional genres (e.g. in business, medicine, and engineering)	business start-up company report organization analysis patient report single issue
2. Critique	To demonstrate/develop understanding of the object of study and the ability to evaluate and/or assess the significance of the object of study Includes descriptive account with optional explanation, and evaluation with optional tests May correspond to part of a Research Report, professional Design Specification or to an expert evaluation such as a book review	academic paper review approach evaluation business/organization evaluation financial report evaluation interpretation of results legislation evaluation policy evaluation product/building evaluation project evaluation review of a book/film/play/website system evaluation teaching evaluation
3. Design Specification	To demonstrate/develop the ability to design a product or procedure that could be manufactured or implemented Typically includes purpose, design development and testing of design May correspond to a professional design specification, or to part of a Proposal or Research Report	application design building design database design game design label design product design system design website design

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Table 2: Continued

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4. Empathy writing	To demonstrate/develop understanding and appreciation of the relevance of academic ideas by translating them into a non-academic register, to communicate to a non-specialist readership May be formatted as a letter, newspaper article or similar non-academic text May correspond to private genres as in personal letters or to publically available genres such as information leaflets	expert advice to industry expert advice to lay person information leaflet job application letter to a friend news report
5. Essay	To demonstrate/develop the ability to construct a coherent argument and employ critical thinking skills Introduction, series of arguments, conclusion May correspond to a published academic/specialist paper	challenge commentary consequential discussion exposition factorial
6. Exercise	To provide practice in key skills (e.g. the ability to interrogate a database, perform complex calculations, or explain technical terms or procedures), and to consolidate knowledge of key concepts Data analysis or a series of responses to questions May correspond to part of a Methodology Recount or Research Report	calculations data analysis mixed (e.g. calculations + short answers) short answers statistics exercise
7. Explanation	To demonstrate/develop understanding of the object of study and the ability to describe and/or account for its significance Includes descriptive account and explanation May correspond to a published Explanation, or to part of a Critique or Research Report	business explanation instrument description methodology explanation organism/disease account site/environment report species/breed description system/process explanation account of natural phenomenon

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Table 2: Continued

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8. Literature survey	To demonstrate/develop familiarity with literature relevant to the focus of study Includes summary of literature relevant to the focus of study and varying degrees of critical evaluation May correspond to a published review article or anthology, or to part of a Research Report	analytical bibliography annotated bibliography anthology literature review literature overview research methods review review article
9. Methodology recount	To demonstrate/develop familiarity with disciplinary procedures, methods, and conventions for recording experimental findings Describes procedures undertaken by writer and may include Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion sections May correspond to part of a Research Report or published research article	computer analysis report data analysis report experimental report field report forensic report lab report materials selection report program development report
10. Narrative recount	To demonstrate/develop awareness of motives and/or behaviour in individuals (including self) or organizations Fictional or factual recount of events, with optional comments May correspond to published literature, or to part of a Research Report	accident report account of literature search account of website search biography character outline plot synopsis reflective recount report on disease outbreak urban ethnography
11. Problem question	To provide practice in applying specific methods in response to professional problems	business scenario law problem question logistics simulation

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Table 2: *Continued*

Genre families	Educational purpose/generic structure/genre network	Genres (examples)
12. Proposal	<p>Problem (may not be stated in assignment), application of relevant arguments or presentation of possible solution(s) in response to scenario</p> <p>Problems or situations resemble or are based on real legal, engineering, accounting or other professional cases</p> <p>To demonstrate/develop ability to make a case for future action</p> <p>Includes purpose, detailed plan, persuasive argumentation</p> <p>May correspond to professional or academic proposals</p>	<p>book proposal</p> <p>building proposal</p> <p>business plan</p> <p>catering plan</p> <p>legislation reform</p> <p>marketing plan</p> <p>policy proposal</p> <p>research proposal</p>
13. Research report	<p>To demonstrate/develop ability to undertake a complete piece of research including research design, and an appreciation of its significance in the field</p> <p>Includes student's research aim/question, investigation, links and relevance to other research in the field</p> <p>May correspond to a published experimental research article or topic-based research paper</p>	<p>research article</p> <p>student research project</p> <p>topic-based dissertation</p>