

WRD 111  
Genre and Style

Overview: This assignment is a way to begin discussing genre and style. Students free write rants on any topic they choose and then they craft the rant into an argument appropriate for a particular genre and audience.

Assignment: Day 1—give students 10 minutes to write a rant on any topic of their choosing. Select one (or more) of these rants to post for all students to view.

Day 2 (or at home assignment)— I use 1) a speech to the UK Faculty Senate, 2) a letter to my grandmother, and 3) a feature in the *KY Kernel* as 3 genres for them to choose from. They select one genre and one of the rants.

Their assignment is to craft the rant into an argument that fits the genre and audience. This project challenges them to write and think in a style that they may not be used to, which is good practice for the editorial position statement.

In class, have students read their arguments, preferably one from each genre. Then, lead a discussion about how the style has changed for each genre, perhaps keeping a list on the board about the way the genre affects the argument and the style.