

## Multi-Genre Study

### Step One: Choosing a Topic

For this project, you may choose any topic about which you are interested. This might be:

- a historical event (ex. Holocaust, sinking of the Titanic, etc.)
- a famous athlete, musician, politician, author, or other influential figure (ex. Princess Diana, Muhammed Ali, The Beatles, Shakespeare, etc.)
- a theme (ex. ambition, courage, education, etc.)
- an issue (ex. racism, bullying, discrimination, etc.)
- a significant place (ex. Mt. Everest, Disneyland, home, etc.)
- any other topic of relevance to young adults (ex. choosing a college or university, peer pressure, being yourself, etc.)

### Step Two: Finding Sources

You are to find a minimum of 5 sources of information about the topic. You must select at least one type of source from each of the categories below (the fifth source may be from any of the categories):

Informational Text	Fictional Text	Visual	Multimedia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• newspaper article</li> <li>• magazine article</li> <li>• online article</li> <li>• chapter in a book</li> <li>• encyclopedia article</li> <li>• etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• short story</li> <li>• novel</li> <li>• poem</li> <li>• graphic novel or comic</li> <li>• script</li> <li>• etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• photograph</li> <li>• painting</li> <li>• sculpture</li> <li>• advertisement</li> <li>• other artwork</li> <li>• etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• documentary</li> <li>• movie</li> <li>• television news report</li> <li>• TEDTalks video</li> <li>• other video</li> <li>• etc.</li> </ul>

### Step Three: Evaluating Sources

The next step of the multi-genre study part of the project is to evaluate the sources you have used both for content and for style. Be sure to answer each of the following questions in detail for each of the sources you have used.

1. What key information did you learn from this source?
2. How was the information organized?
3. From whose perspective was the information presented?
4. What types of details were used to present the information? Be sure to include an evaluation of the effectiveness of literary devices in answering this question.
5. How was your reading of the text impacted by the type of source?

Be sure to submit your answers to these questions for each source with your final project.

### Step Four: Citing Sources

The final step of the multi-genre study is to complete an MLA style works cited list for the five sources you have used.

## Multi-Genre Study

### *Beautiful Boy*

- 1) The most important information that I learned in this novel was how addiction affects not just the addict, but also their family. In *Beautiful Boy* a father struggles to cope with his son's addiction to methamphetamines. His coping mechanism is to focus only on his son, Nic. As a result, his relationships with others are severed. Nic's addiction makes him very absent in the life of his brother and sister. They grow up constantly wondering when they will see their brother. This novel showed how not just the life of the addict is turned upside down.
- 2) This novel is written in chronological order. It starts with Nic's childhood, progresses through his teenage years, and ends with the stages of his addiction. The type of organization was very effective for this particular novel because you were able to see the whole picture; you knew exactly what shaped Nic into the person he was.
- 3) The story is told in first person point of view from the father's perspective. The benefit of having the novel told from first person point of view was that the reader was able to see exactly how addiction affects family. The reader knew exactly what the father was seeing or thinking at any moment. One of the disadvantages was that the reader was unable to determine what Nic was thinking or feeling at any given moment.
- 4) The details that were used to present the information in the novel were personal stories and facts. The facts were a key element to the novel because they helped give the reader a deeper understanding of drugs and their effects on the human body. The author did a very good job of appealing to emotion throughout the whole novel. His word choice when explaining the struggles he went through while his son was addicted to drugs evoked emotions of sadness, anger, and sympathy. He also used quotes to open each part of the book, which helped to foreshadow what was coming next, and supported the thoughts and feelings of characters throughout the novel.
- 5) When reading novels that tell a true story, like *Beautiful Boy*, I try to make connections with the characters, and focus more on the big picture rather than the little details. The author's honest portrayal of the characters allowed me to connect with them on a deeper level, and allowed me to better understand their actions throughout the novel.

### *Tweak*

- 1) The most important information that I learned in this novel was the personal struggles that an addict encounters. Nic, a young male, who is addicted to methamphetamines, struggles to live a normal life and pull all the pieces together. He is unable to hold a job, see things clearly, or maintain a stable relationship. He also faces numerous struggles while attempting to get clean. The novel demonstrates the rollercoaster of life that many addicts are on.

- 2) This novel is written in chronological order. It starts at the beginning of Nic's childhood, progresses through his life as an addict and ends with him seeking help in an addiction centre. This type of organization was effective because the reader was given the whole picture; there were not any missing pieces. Another benefit was that the timeline was very easy to follow.
- 3) The story is told in first person point of view from the addict's perspective. This was effective because the reader knew exactly what Nic was thinking or feeling at any given moment. The reader knew when Nic felt out of control, excited, sad or happy. One disadvantage was that the reader did not know what people around Nic were thinking or feeling.
- 4) The details that were used to present the information in this novel were personal experiences and true stories. This was effective because it appealed to the reader's emotions. Analogies and hyperboles were used to better explain the feelings that Nic felt while he was high. They were both very effective in helping the reader better understand the loss of control and rollercoaster of emotions that Nic often felt.
- 5) When reading novels that tell a true story I try to make connections with the characters, and focus more on the big picture rather than the little details. Nic's honest portrayal of himself allowed me to better understand his actions and struggles throughout the novel. I did not focus on the little details in Nic's story, but instead tried to understand what provoked his actions and what held him back from recovery.

### *What Stays in the Family*

- 1) The key information I learned from this source was that you should not hide a family member's addiction, and that being an addict does not define a person. In this memoir a mother and daughter hide the father's addiction to alcohol. This is difficult on both of them, especially, the daughter, because she was forced to lie to her friends. The trouble of covering up the truth turned out to be more difficult than just being honest from the start. The daughter decides to open up about her father's addiction by publishing a series of poems. While writing the poems, she realizes that there is more to her father than his addiction; he is still a hard worker, optimist, curler, and fiddler.
- 2) This memoir is written in chronological order. It begins with the father's addiction when the writer is a child and progresses until the father has died and she is a fully-grown woman. This was effective because you able to see the progression in the writer's life as she came to terms with her father's addiction.
- 3) This story is told in first person point of view, from the perspective of an addict's daughter. This was evident from the use of the pronoun I. This point of view was effective because you knew exactly how the father's addiction affected her. The reader knew the emotions that the daughter felt when she was forced to lie to her peers. One disadvantage was that the reader did not know if the father felt any remorse over the pain he was causing his family.

- 4) The details that were used to present the information in this memoir were true stories from the writer's childhood and adulthood. Rhetorical questions were used very effectively to show how unintelligent trying to hide the father's addiction was. Similes were also used to demonstrate how the writer felt when she had to lie in order to keep her family's situation a secret.
- 5) When reading a memoir I connect with the author because I am hearing their experiences and opinions. I focus less on the little details and focus more on emotionally connecting with the author's story and trying to understand how they felt in any given situation.

#### *Drug Addiction Art Exhibit- Karen Thornsén*

- 1) The key information that I learned from this source was that there is hope for addicts, but that an addiction can also quickly overtake and destroy someone's life. A few of the collections in the exhibit symbolize that there is hope for addicts. For example, there is one piece that shows a man using a ladder to climb out of the ocean. The other pieces of the collection represent the destruction that can occur in an addict's life. For example, one piece shows a tombstone of an addict who dies at the young age of 15.
- 2) The information from this source was not organized in any particular order, but all of the pieces in the collection were linked together by the theme addiction. Each piece represented a different aspect of an addict's life.
- 3) The collection was presented from the perspective of someone who grew up close to addiction; they may have been an addict themselves or had a family member who struggled with addiction. This is evident because the written aspects of each piece sound like they are spoken from somewhere who is aware of what addiction can do to people.
- 4) Details such as color choice and the addition of words were used to present the information in this collection. The pieces were almost all completed using the same colors, white, black, grey, and salmon. These colors helped represent the negatives effects that an addiction can have on individuals. Words were included in almost every piece to help create a better understanding of what the images represented. The words helped the viewer understand what message the artist was trying to get across with each piece.
- 5) While looking at this art collection, I was focused on making connections between the pieces and the real world. When viewing an art gallery you must be able to interpret what the artist was trying to say through their work. I try harder to make connection with the outside world when I am viewing an art collection versus reading a fiction or non-fiction novel.

#### *Ted Talk- Addiction and Trust*

- 1) The key information that I learned from this source was the importance of self-trust when it comes to overcoming addiction. The speaker, who is a recovering drug addict, talks about the numerous times that he attempted to overcome his addiction, and reveals that self trust is what finally allowed him to conquer his addiction.

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- 2) The deductive method of organization was used during this Ted Talk. The speaker started of by talking generally about his experience with addiction and self-trust, and then went into the specifics as to how and why addiction works against self-trust and why it is damaging to a person's recovery.
  - 3) The information in this video was presented in first person point of view from the addict's (speaker's) perspective. Because the speaker was a recovering addict himself, the video seemed more sincere, honest, and believable.
  - 4) Details such as personal experiences and facts were used to present the information in this video. The speaker used creditable facts to back up his own opinions and ideas. The author explained all his experiences and feelings as an addict through facts, giving specific reasons for why he may have felt or acted a certain way. The speaker used images and analogies to help explain the research and facts that he was presenting. These were both effective in helping the viewers understand the scientific and complex words that were being used.
  - 5) While watching a video, I focus specifically on the speaker and what he is saying. Text is often used to help explain ideas in videos; therefore, while watching a video I pay special attention to any text that is used. The information in videos is sometimes harder to catch when compared to information from an article, novel, or textbook, so I focus on understanding the main idea. Also, because a video is visualize, I am able to visual the situations, ideas, or experiences that are being presented.

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### Works Cited

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