
Writer's Statement about "The AIAA and its Use of Genre"

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When I began writing this paper, I knew that I wanted to focus on the notion of there being different types of genre in writing. In an information-dependent generation, it is important for an organization to be able to share information effectively through the use of genre; this is a feat that the AIAA seems to have grasped. Entering this class with Dr. Bell, I had little knowledge of what genre was exactly. It took a few weeks' time to fully grasp the subject, but in a way it did interest me. I enjoyed analyzing the guidelines of different genres as it gave me a chance to critically reflect on someone else's writing, which, being a math-oriented kind of guy, is something I do not often find myself doing.

My only requirement for choosing the website that I would be analyzing for this paper was simply that it be an organization related to my major. I chose to focus my work on the AIAA because of my appreciation of the aerospace industry, although my future plans of study have since changed to Electrical Engineering. I decided that I would analyze the AIAA's website after my initial research on it. Their presence on the Internet is very professional and well-organized, something that I find to be a lost cause among many other organizations online. I found that they produce a number of genres and this provided me with plenty to research for my paper.

Dr. Bell required that peer reviews be performed for all of our writing in class. Having another few sets of eyes on my writing provided me with an outside view that I found very valuable while writing. It is easy to skip over mistakes while proofreading one's own work but with three different people making revisions I feel that my writing is definitely stronger. Having other students offer me their opinions and insight also provides me with another perspective while writing. This is possibly my favorite part of having peer reviews throughout the writing process.

While writing this paper I found it quite difficult to keep within the given word length. There was so much information and research that I wanted to cover that I found myself cutting out entire paragraphs of content before being able to submit my final draft. In my opinion, adding content to a paper is quite simple when compared to cutting it out. If I were to rewrite this paper, I would make sure to focus on the length from the start. Next time, I will allot myself a general number of words to each section of my writing because I expect that this would have made the writing process move much smoother for me.

Dr. Bell was the audience that my paper was written for. I wrote this knowing that she has prior knowledge of genre and its conventions but needs to be convinced that I am knowledgeable on the subject as well and able to write in a way that would be accepted in my chosen professional field. I would like to think that I proved my understanding of genre and, with support from Dr. Bell and my classmates, produced a quality piece of writing on the genres of the AIAA.