

Five essential components of genre analysis*

*according to the perspective in this book

1. Audience and Purpose
2. Organization
3. Writing Conventions
4. Grammar and Mechanics
5. Content

Audience and Purpose

Expert scientific

who	scientists in the field
background	specialized science knowledge

Scientific

who	scientists
background	advanced science knowledge

Student

who	science majors
background	beginning science knowledge

General

who	people interested in science
background	little science knowledge

What is the purpose of a journal article?

Of a scientific poster?

Of a research proposal?

Practice on Exercise 1.12., p.26

Organization

1. Broad structure.

What is the broad structure for your final paper in this course?

2. Fine structure: required moves and optional moves

Required moves: steps that provide essential information required to achieve the purpose of the genre.

Optional moves: steps that are not required but are often used to help achieve the purpose of the genre.

Example on pp. 14-15.

Practice on Exercise 1.8., p.18

Also, decide if there are fewer required moves than shown in Fig. 1.4. What do you think could be the fewest required moves?

Writing Conventions

Varies by genre, even among journals in the same genre.

Scientists omit “s” in units: 10 grams = 10 g

Verb tense (past, present, or future)

Voice (active or passive)

Grammar and Mechanics

Practice on Exercise 1.10, p.22

(Review Appendix A, pp. 634-657 as needed)

Content

1. Text

2. Graphics

Graphics in scientific writing, mostly means tables and figures (also diagrams, schemes, boxes, etc.).