
Writer's Statement about "More than Just Pieces of Paper: The Role of Genres in Professional Employee/Employer Relationships"

CAROLINE HALIK

As a freshman at the University of Central Florida taking ENC 1102, I shared the common idea that research papers aren't typically the most enjoyable part of the college experience. As a result of this, I needed to choose a topic for this paper I would be greatly familiar with. I personally know that writing about a topic that I can't dedicate 100% of myself into would be a struggle in producing twenty plus pages. I had concluded that there wasn't a lot of previous research on the business aspect of genres as well as relating to forming business relationships. In this research paper, I aimed to fill the main gap of the importance of genres in the workplace and their effect on forming business relationships. There can be further research done on this topic and maybe even resulting in a larger scale and lengthier paper.

I first got interested in this topic and chose to write about it when I had realized I am not so familiar with genres in the workplace. Having worked multiple part-time jobs in my life, and presently being employed at three different workplaces, this topic was of great interest to me. Not only that, but I am pursuing a degree in business and working towards pursuing a career in that field. "More than Just Pieces of Paper: The Role of Genres in Professional Employer/Employee Relationships" was written for and aimed at a specific audience, generally all different hierarchies of workers. Most people have held at least one job, so the audience of this paper was greater than I had intended. This can be applied to workers from various different positions and workplaces, whether for a large company or a mom and pop shop.

Some of the implications and challenges I had faced while writing this paper related to broadening my topic on not just covering the retail workplace, which I was working at presently when this paper was assigned. But as a result of this, I gained much information and knowledge with what I was not familiar with. In terms of the interviewing process, limitations existed because of legal aspects on what could and could not be answered. For example, one interviewee declined to answer any of my questions because of liability to her workplace. This shows that I had to interview individuals that were not only comfortable answering my questions, but also complied with what information could be shared.

The main statement I was trying to highlight and make is that genres are found all around us, especially the ones that are found on paper and seem like there is no significance associated

with them. But this is not the fact because the gap I tried to fill is how these genres are formed and form relationships in the workplace. These various pieces of paper that we take for granted specifically shape and form communities all around us. Amy Devitt does a marvelous job in portraying the statement that communities are shaped by genres and vice versa. Most of us actually take genres for granted and don't appreciate them enough or see how powerful they are.

It is significant that genres exist in different forms whether physically or electronically. A piece of paper that is shared and exchanged within a community has a different meaning versus emailing an electronic document. This also ties into how often and the method of communication the members in the community reach out to one another. Then sharing those papers, and genres with others whether inside or outside of your community also shows its importance and usage. This can directly tie into how genres are a social tool and can link back to the title that they are truly more than just pieces of paper.

This assignment got me into researching a lot earlier in my college career and had the opportunity to delve into a topic that would be very advantageous to me. At first I was hesitant and not looking forward to spending a whole semester on one project, but the results definitely showed otherwise. Usually prerequisite courses such as ENC 1102 are seen as just another class to take in college. Fortunately, I found true meaning and a sense of accomplishment not only as a student, but also as a hard worker pursuing a degree in business. I learned that if you set your mind to an assignment and put all you have into it, you will be successful.