# Activity: **Genre Features Chart**

**Definition and Purpose**

A *genre* is a particular kind of text created for a particular audience and purpose, often with certain identifying features in common. Genres of writing include research articles; short stories; movie reviews; emails; business reports; press releases; and diary entries. You’ll be asked to produce writing in several different genres this semester for different purposes (public, academic, and professional), so for each new genre you encounter, you’ll spend some time identifying its key features and characteristics. An understanding of genre includes identifying information about the text (title, author, publication date and venue, etc.) as well as more complex analysis you will need to provide as an active reader (the author’s stance, key moves the author makes, the text layout/design/organization and structure, the use of language and style, evidence from outside sources, etc.) Completing this chart will help you analyze and better understand each example text, preparing you to write in the genre yourself.

**Identifying Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of the assigned text |  |
| Author’s full name |  |
| What genre (type of text) is this? |  |
| Where was it published? |  |
| Date of publication |  |

**Genre Features**: What do you notice about/how would you describe…

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The title |  |
| How the author begins the piece |  |
| The topic |  |
| The paragraphs |  |
| The visual features |  |
| The author’s stance or position |  |
| The author’s language and sentence style |  |
| The author’s voice (do they use “I” or talk about themselves? How? Why?) |  |
| The incorporation of outside sources |  |
| The ending |  |

**Key Genre Moves—Think Piece**: Explain *how* and *why* the author incorporates the following moves common to this genre, including specific examples from the text (e.g., “In paragraph 4, author X does Y by…)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1) Staking a position on a specific, timely topic based on personal experience, interest, and credibility |  |
| 2) Acknowledging an ongoing conversation about the topic by incorporating other experts/sources |  |
| 3) Providing suggestions, advice, or guidance about the topic to the audience |  |