

Questions for Genre Analysis

Genre analysis is a way to examine a model text to determine how that type of text is written—what features are necessary in order for the text to be considered part of that genre? You might think of it as a form of reverse engineering. You take an existing document in a certain field and work backward from that to identify how that field expects such a document to be written. Genre analysis focuses on what the author is doing (as opposed to the content or what they are saying). What is the author doing at the rhetorical or sentence level that allows a reader to understand the text as part of the target genre? For instance, think about the differences between a resume and a cover letter, or between a personal journal entry and a written reflection for a class. In each pair, the content may be similar. What the author does in the text (how the audience is addressed, the type of vocabulary used, etc.) may be very different. The questions below can help you work with model texts, but do not feel constrained to note only aspects of writing mentioned below. The list is not meant to be exhaustive.

Rhetorical (global) level

Structure: Yamaris Astorga

- The text is structured in a scientific manner that makes it apparent to readers that all the data is logical and well-thought out, making it more trust-worthy.
- Sections and subsections are labeled in a clear and concise way. There are general headings such as Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion which hint at the reader where they are in the reading. The subheadings are listed within these generalized headings that show paragraphs where the specificities are for them.
- The thesis is “The aim of the current study was to examine a set of honey samples that had been found to have high H₂O₂-dependent antimicrobial activity and to test (a) whether this activity was stable over 11–12 years of storage and (b) how activity correlated with H₂O₂ assessed using the HRP test” and it is located toward the end of the introduction.
- This thesis sets up expectations on the presence of experimenting due to its objective wording.
- The text delivers on those expectations by actually providing experimentation which is what is expected within scientific article.
- The structure guides and supports the thesis because it is within an IMRAD format somewhat. It offers an introduction with methods of experimentation, results, analysis/discussion and a conclusion which is typical for a scientific paper.
- The structure is used to develop the argument as it provides a feeling of objectivity and passive writing which allows for less bias or room for coercion/persuasion within the audience as all the actions and dictionary within the paper is impersonal. The little

squares with arrows within headings and subheadings also did an impeccable job at explaining what the purpose of certain aspects within the article were.

- Terms were defined when something “new” was to be learned such as learning the format of an IMRAD offered pointers on how to organize the headings and subheadings. I also read a few definitions within the parentheses after certain phrases.

Audience

- The audience can be indicated through the language and formatting which is IMRAD, this hints that this scientific paper is aimed toward scientific researchers
- It is not that clear what the audience is expected to know, but due to the extreme detail I am sure you just need basic science knowledge and the ability to read certain equations and jargon. The Abstract in the beginning does offer insight.
- The text engages with its audience by being written in scientific language that other researchers can understand.

Purpose (Maria N.)

- Where and how is the overall purpose indicated?
 - The overall purpose is indicated in the abstract and the introduction. The abstract contains a summarized version of the purpose of the research. It mentions the study's goal of examining the factors affecting hydrogen peroxide production in honey. However, in the introduction, the purpose is provided with more details stating the need to understand factors like the antimicrobial properties and stability over time.

Identify moves in the introduction.

- Where and how is the scope of the research indicated?
 - The scope of the research is indicated in the introduction where it mentions the elements that will be investigated which in this case is the honey's composition and antimicrobial properties.
- Where and how is the writer's position established? How is the research gap indicated?
 - The writer's position is established in the introduction, where the research gap is explained by discussing how the variability in hydrogen peroxide production and its impact on antibacterial activity is not fully understood. Also, it states, past researches cited to highlight inconsistencies and knowledge gaps in hydrogen peroxide activity measurement.
- Where and how does the writer indicate how the gap will be filled by this research?

- The study's contribution is outlined in the introduction, where the researchers propose examining honey samples that were stored for over a decade and then assess activity stability and see if there is any effectiveness at a low-cost assay.
- Identify moves in other sections of the paper. What is the author doing (as opposed to saying)?
 - For example, in the methods section the author indicates the experimental procedures that were conducted. In the results section, the author provides statistical analyses and correlations that supports the conclusion. The author also includes graphs, pictures to explain the information, and statistics to prove his findings.

Support (Data & Literature)/ (Maria N)

- How are claims stated and supported?
 - The claims are stated and supported by all the experimental data, statistical analysis, and references to past research. Also, the study shows correlations between hydrogen peroxide production and antibacterial activity using quantitative methods such as spectrophotometric assays and bioassays.
- How much context or background is provided?
 - There are various forms of context and background provided on the honey's antimicrobial properties, factors influencing the hydrogen peroxide production, and the need for a reliable screening method.
- Is data presented using charts, tables, figures, etc.?
 - Yes, data is presented using multiple tables, graphs, and images that helps illustrate trends in hydrogen peroxide production, antimicrobial activity, and honey color. For example, Figure 2 shows correlations between antimicrobial activity and the hydrogen peroxide production.
- What type and amount of evidence is used, and how is it used?
 - The study uses experimental evidence that was obtained in bioassays, spectrophotometric measurements, and statistical analyses. Also, most of the evidence includes numerical data from experiments that were analyzed using correlation and regression methods to prove their claims.

- How is the credibility of the evidence indicated?
 - Credibility is established through the multiple methodology, statistical validation, citation of previous studies, and the clear presentation of limitations of the study. The study also discusses other factors on how the study has not been fully understood and acknowledges areas where further research is needed. Contains a balance of well-written evidence to support their topic, but the argument shows more credibility that even though all this information is written, there could always be more studies done to figure out how the hydrogen peroxide production effects in honey.

Sentence level (Yamaris)

- How is the document formatted (e.g., margins, headings, citation styles, etc.)?
 - Believe citations are in APA formatting toward the end of the passage where there is a list of resources.
- Are direct quotations used, and, if so, how long do they tend to be?
 - Do not see any quotations.
- How are citations indicated (e.g., author referred to in-text or just parenthetical)?
 - Parentheses
- How are a majority of sentences structured and connected within the document? Does sentence structure change depending on the placement in the text?
 - Not necessarily, many of the sentences are long and complete with subject, predicates, and objectives.
- How long do sentences tend to be?
 - Moderately long, about three lines.
- Are there types of punctuation that are never used (e.g., dashes)?
 - Quotations and dashes
- What sorts of transitions or other signpost phrases are used?
 - Upon further research, Recently,
- What types of field-specific words or phrases are used?
- How much repetition of words (as opposed to using synonyms) occurs?

(Maria N.)

- What types of abbreviations are used? Are they defined first?
 - Some of the types of abbreviations included in the study are H₂O₂, HRP, NPA, and PBS. These abbreviations are explained beforehand, but some weren't as clear so I had to look them up.
- To what degree does the writer indicate a level of certainty by hedging? For what sort of material is hedging used?

- In the article, hedging is mostly used in discussions of results, limitations of the study, and implications for future research. The writer uses phrases like “suggesting”, “may”, “potentially”, and “appears to.”
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- What verb tenses are used? Are they used differently in different sections?
 - Some verbs that are used are past tense, present tense, and future tense. The past tense is primarily used in the Methods and Results sections to describe experiments and findings. The present tense is used for general facts and established knowledge, while the future tense is used to discuss further research.
- Is passive or active voice used?
 - Both are used, the introduction and discussion is where active voice is more frequently, while in the methods section there is a passive voice used to further explain what was being used.
- Are first-person pronouns used? Singular I or plural we? Is the use of these pronouns limited to certain sections of the document? How extensive is their use (e.g., do a majority of sentences start with I or we, or only a few)?
 - Yes, first-person pronouns are used, but only in the plural form. In certain parts of the article, “we” is used to describe research actions. However, its use is very limited and not overused.
- How concise is the writing?
 - The writing of the article is very precise and direct, it doesn't over explain topics, and the scientific terminology helps the reader understand what's being studied.

Voice (Maria N.)

- How confident does the author sound and how can you tell (e.g., certain words, phrasing, etc.)?
 - The author sounds confident because of the precise wording, well supported claims, and the use of evidence that supports their claims. Also, the statistical analyses and images help the reader understand the study better.
- How and where does the author use self-reference or metadiscourse (e.g., “we will explain” or “as explained in the previous section”)?

- The author uses self-reference and metadiscourse when trying to show the research methods and findings. Also in sections such as "our group published a protocol" and "we found no correlation" show direct involvement in the research.
- How formal or informal is the tone? What causes that level of formality?
 - The tone is mostly formal in the research. The causes are achieved through the use of citations, statistical analyses, and objective wording.
- Does the author use idiomatic expressions?
 - No, the author does not use idiomatic expressions. The writing in the article is precise and formal.