

# The Nuts and Bolts of the Multi-Genre Research Project

ACTIVITY  
4.20

## Learning Targets

- Define criteria for constructing an effective multi-genre research project.
- Evaluate different organizational options to plan a project.

### LEARNING STRATEGIES:

Note-taking, Guided Reading, Discussion Groups

## Before Reading

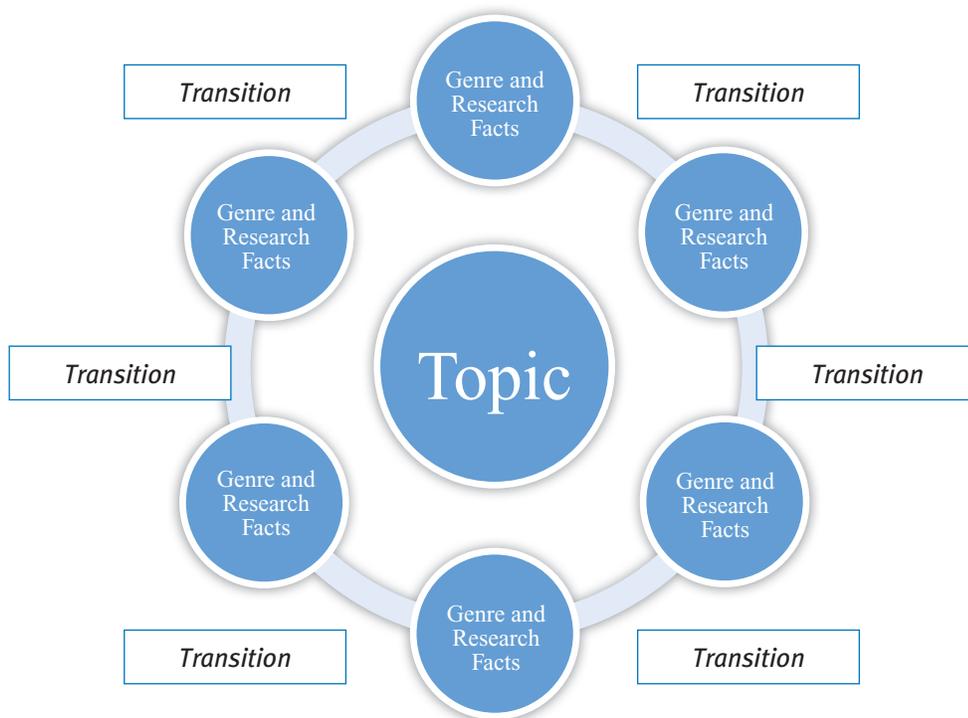
1. In your group, preview the sample multi-genre research project, and then create a working definition of the project.

### My Notes

## During Reading

2. Read the sample multi-genre research project (MGR) from the perspective of a writer—what do you notice about the style and craft of the MGR? As you read, follow your teacher’s instructions to annotate the text with your insights and observations.

Think about how this graphic organizer could help you analyze and organize a multi-genre research paper such as the one you are about to read and create.



## After Reading

3. After you have read and studied the sample multi-genre research project, think about how seeing a project sample contributes to your understanding of using this approach to study a subject of interest to you.

# The Nuts and Bolts of the Multi-Genre Research Project

## Student Sample, Multi-Genre Research Project

Dear Reader,

When first introduced to the multi-genre research assignment, without hesitation, I selected the most prominent American musician ever to take the stage—Louis Armstrong. Armstrong’s commitment to accomplishing his dreams is unsurpassed as he epitomizes what can happen when talent is given an opportunity to obtain success. So I thought, no problem—I get to talk about a cultural icon, his relevance to the music industry, and his rise to fame despite adversity—this is going to be easy as counting from one to three. Then, Mrs. Spencer walked us through the “steps of the assignment,” and let me tell you, there were far more than three simple steps.

The journey to create a multi-genre research project is no small undertaking. It begins with inquiry about a topic of personal interest. Upon discussion with peers, I realized that what I know and need to know to accomplish this task will “actually require” a significant amount of research. Thus leads to the next step, a personal favorite, not—research! Research leads to more questions—great. Once you have the information—how do you present it with a creative edge that shares passion, insight, and wonder? Seems easy, but it was quite the challenge. No great work of art was ever pulled off without a plan, right? Writing the collection of genres presented a labyrinth of challenges and discoveries that led to the ultimate moment of this project—a metaphorical link between genres that would blend my collection of work.

Initially, I attempted to link the genres with significant events from Armstrong’s life—too easy and predictable. The next attempt was to string genres together by popular song lyrics—too hard to get the ideas to flow. Frustrated with how to get my point across, I decided it was time to consult “the boss,” Mrs. Spencer. After an enlightening conference, I figured out how to connect the genres—create original song lyrics to make a connection between two musicians, Louis and me. The major similarity between Louis Armstrong and me is our passion for music and entertainment. Now, the really hard part—finding a way to thread ideas from research on Louis and myself into a musical composition.

Louis Armstrong did not start off rich and famous; he began at the bottom and worked his way up as I plan to do. This is the crux of the American Dream—success through hard work and determination. Talent can go a long way, but unwavering ambition makes dreams come true. As a result, I came up with a nineteen-verse song to reflect our love for music as well as depict the arduous pathway to the limelight. I had to pick a widely recognized melody so that readers could sing my song lyrics as they transitioned from one genre to the next. Hence, I selected the rap from Will Smith’s “Parents Just Don’t Understand.” The hardest part of the whole piece was writing to a certain beat and rhyme. If one word did not fit into the correct place, then the whole line and even verse would be off. Also, I had to incorporate the idea and purpose of why I was writing the paper. As for my genre pieces, I made sure that they acted as “breaks” within the rap itself by doing things such as placing a diary entry with complete sentences and paragraphs after a couple of verses, or adding a picture to the middle of the paper to ease the eyes. I also included a mock schedule that not only illustrated Armstrong’s rise in popularity, but also served as a rest point from the rap. I hope that the lyrics to my song not only educate you about Armstrong’s American dream, but provide insight into my dream as well.

Sincerely,  
Jhoanne Mecija

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# The Nuts and Bolts of the Multi-Genre Research Project

## The Fresh Prince of Jazz and Myself

The generation of American folk music dates back to as long as one can remember, and since then, has developed and grown into countless different types of music. Throughout the years, there have been hundreds of individuals who have greatly influenced the way music is looked upon; one of those includes the amazing and all time favorite jazz musician, Louis Armstrong. He never lost his passion for music as he looked up to his idol Joe “King” Oliver. Louis Armstrong worked from the very bottom and worked to the top to fulfill his American Dream, making him one of the greatest influences in music and role models to young musicians like myself. As for my journey in fulfilling my American Dream in the meantime, I continue to walk, and during it, I break into song. . .

(To the tune of Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Introduction)

Now this is a story all about how

My life's compared to the Armstrong in renown

And I'd like to take a minute, yeah that'll do

To tell you how Louis achieved his dream and how I will too.

From Louisiana, born and raised

On the edge is where he spent most of his days

Sellin' stuff, runnin', workin' all hard

Playin' his first cornet in the yard.

When I was that age, I was up to some good

Started playing piano in my neighborhood

I got in one little lesson and my mom felt proud

She said, “You're going to keep playing it and be singing aloud.”

I whistled a few tunes, the ones I would hear,

While piano books said “Beginner” to practice for a year.

If anything I could've said, “I quit; no more!”

But I thought, “No, forget it, this—I can't ignore.”

While cleaning out my room, tired and astray

I found a diary entry written on some random day

Findin' out, discoverin', coverin', all cool,

Wonderin' if this thing actually came from school, it said:

Dear Diary,

Today was such a tiring day! I woke up to the sharp bites of the cold and absolutely did not want to get out of bed. I prepared for the upcoming day and the new assignments, the quizzes, and new challenges that needed to be taken on.

In first period, choir, my classmates and I listened to the lectures of our teacher, Mr. Hoshi. He ranted on about how he has been doing his job for the upcoming choir show and that we need to do ours, which is actually totally true, but apparently the message just doesn't seem to get out to all the choir students. Some of the songs that Advanced Girls learned for the holiday show included "Polar Express," "O Holy Night," "I Love Christmas," and "The Prayer." Being of those people who enjoy music, singing these songs and learning the different styles, beats, and rhythms of them really expanded my music library. Yes, Hoshi might fuss about how some of us don't know the words to the songs or the choreography to them, but what he says is true. As singers of this program, we should come prepared and learn our parts and words. Even though I have been turned down two times for this show's solo auditions, I continue to learn. I *can* be bitter, but I choose not to and to just accept it. I learn from these attempts and they only help me become stronger, especially with the guidance of a teacher like Mr. Hoshi. I can for sure say that I have never had a teacher like him before.

Anyway, the day went on, and I can't quite say it got better. I had an APUSH quiz, then after school I had to run 20 suicides on the basketball courts for conditioning because my coach is determined to win and make it to playoffs, which I think is possible. At practice, I had major pain from my calves down. All of this conditioning and running has not been good for them lately. After the hard practice, the drive home was soothing and partly relaxing as I listened to one of my CDs play songs that I sing along to. When I arrived home, dinner was the first thing on my mind because after that, I knew I had a pile of homework waiting for me.

As of right now, I'm just taking my homework one at a time. I've got some music on to cool me down, to help me relax and take my stress away. Sometimes it's like a factor in escaping the troubles of life. I've heard it said that while doing a task that the left side of the brain takes control of, such as homework, the right side of the brain could be enriched at the same time with music in the background. I don't know if this is true, but I like to think it is just so it gives the mindset that it helps both sides of the brain. Although at times, I have to face turning off my music because I get so caught up with music that it serves as a distraction. Hopefully it won't be a long night tonight.

Your one and only,

Jhoanne Mecija

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When the journey began, it started off real well,  
Started making progress and began to excel,  
But no—I can't forget how I started it all  
With the touch of a piano and then it's easy to recall:

*And so it Begins*

The touch of a piano and sound of a note,  
Started it all  
As its results weren't remote.

Days that were spent watching and waiting  
No longer existed,  
Instead spent learning and contemplating.

A burst of sound fills the air,  
Wishing, wondering, willing,  
Sending smiles of joy and happiness everywhere.

The sound of music and its enticement,  
So luring and yet so comforting,  
Serves as an outlet to calm excitement.

Singing came along  
As the journey continued,  
And with it came the words to a song.

And so it began,  
A legend, this star waiting to shine,  
Caving her way for a better life plan.

So it remained to be  
That her goal in life  
Was to live where music held life's key.

For the King of Trumpets, named and crowned,  
Becoming famous wasn't always sweet and sound  
Stressin' out, messin', depressin' at times  
Tensin' some muscles over some crimes

In a couple of days, all returns to good  
Hard work and determination as it should  
Louis got a lot of money and had more to grow  
He said, "I never tried to prove nothing, just wanted to give a good show."  
(Louis Armstrong)

He longed for a debut and when he found one  
The papers said "Starring" and his name was bright as the sun  
If anything he could say that this ad was rare  
But he thought, "No, I like it. It's time to prepare!"

# The Nuts and Bolts of the Multi-Genre Research Project

THE BLUE JAZZ CLUB PRESENTS

Louis Satchmo  
Armstrong



THE KING OF  
*Jazz*



As Louis Armstrong's dream grew and gained  
Popularity expanded—he entertained.  
Growin' up, showin', playin' it cool  
Hittin' some notes outside of school

When a couple of guys, come up with ideas  
Started making articles about this player  
He got in one good paper and the crowd was pleased  
He said, "I have never felt so honored and joyful at ease."

# The Nuts and Bolts of the Multi-Genre Research Project

## The Blues Newspaper

### A Great American Figure

IT WAS ON AUGUST 4, 1901 when a great musician had been born into this world. Louis Armstrong, Satchmo, the king of jazz folk music, has left his mark in the American history of music. He serves as an influence to all and inspiration to musicians across the country.

Armstrong was not merely a trumpet player, but took on other roles such as a singer, cornet player, and bandleader. This multitalented man became one of America's favorite people because of his popular music and style. Mostly known for his style of swing, he then developed this into the form of R&B, rhythm-and-blues. His passion and hard work has come a long way.

As a child growing up, Armstrong was not privileged like most other kids. He had to deal with racism, a lack of education, and living with poverty. Along with other jazz musicians that came from New Orleans, Louisiana, Louis Armstrong had to work to become as successful as he came to be. He was sent to a reform school at the age of twelve, where he began his musical journey as he learned to play the cornet. Along with that, he sold papers and coal and unloaded boats for money. Joe "King" Oliver, Louis Armstrong's role model, provided him his first real instrument, the cornet, which began his whole career.

Over time, Armstrong became more popular, joining bands from Chicago and making new hits. His famous groups included the Hot Five and Hot Seven. Individually, he created the famous songs "What a Wonderful World," "Hello Dolly," and "Mack the Knife." Producer Joe Glaser has even had his bands play for movies including *Pennies from Heaven*, a 1936 classic film. During his lifetime, Armstrong was published twice in his two biographies, *Satchmo: A Musical Autobiography* and *Swing That Music*.

In his last few years on earth, he suffered from heart trouble. He is proof to show that hard work, passion, and dedication pay off. Armstrong, a great musician and heart warming person, passed on July 6, 1971 in New York, New York. Even after his death, his music still lives on in every jazz lover's heart.



He received a fan mail and when it came here,  
The envelope read “For Louis and his Wonderful Year”  
If anything he could say he just didn’t have enough time  
But he thought, “No, forget it. This doesn’t cost a dime!”

Hi Wonderful Fan,

Glad to hear from ya! I love it when I hear that I have made someone’s day or taken their troubles off of their minds. Let me tell you that. Now how could I not reply to such a sweet letter like yours? I am very flattered! And don’t you worry about taking my time away because every spare minute I have I take out my laptop and type away. Brotha, I have one thing to say and it’s that I, Louis Armstrong, am a sucker when it comes to writing!

I really appreciate your support man! That show at the Blue Jazz Club was one of my favorite shows and I’m glad you enjoyed my music. I’ll be on tour for who knows how long, and would sure love to keep in touch! If you’d like, you could come to another concert of mine and see me and Armstrong’s Hot Five! The next show will be at Waldorf Astoria’s Empire Room at the big ol’ apple itself—New York.

Have you read any of my books? You should, they would be a great opportunity for you to learn a little more about me. On my part, I would like to learn more about you by reading what you have to say about your self. I am a man of my word, born and raised in Louisiana and you’re darn right I’m going to reply with all my might and love to ya! My manager Joe Glaser does so much for me. He says he sends his love and gratitude too. Speak to you soon, buddy. It’s time for me to perform!

Anxiously waiting for your reply,

Louis Armstrong

In a couple of days—fans just couldn’t wait  
So he started making plans on occupied dates  
He squeezed in one little plan but he needed more in between  
So he said, “I need a little schedule to help me keep clean”

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Date	Time	Activity or Event
December 14, 1936	6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Performance at the Blue Jazz Club
December 15, 1936	8:00 AM – 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM	Filming of “Pennies from Heaven”
December 17, 1936	6:00 PM	Flight to Chicago, then back home
December 18, 1936	10:00 AM – 12:45 PM, 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Filming of “Pennies from Heaven”
December 20, 1936	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Performance at Pixy Star Club
December 23, 1936	9:00 AM – 9:45 AM	Radio Recording
December 24, 1936	8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Concert at Northern Pole Hotel
December 27, 1936	9:00 AM – 11:45 PM, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Filming of “Pennies from Heaven”
January 1, 1937	2:00 PM	Flight to Miami and back

When the time was near, the crowd began to cheer  
 The performance was over, no need to shed a tear  
 If anything people were amazed to see him play,  
 Especially before he turned old and hair turned grey.

People wanted to know his personality  
 His style and his life, and his mentality  
 Look to his right and there's a person there!  
 Standing with a mic. and questions in the air.

- Interviewer: It is a great pleasure to be speaking to the king of jazz himself—Louis Armstrong. How are you tonight?
- Armstrong: Well I am doing mighty fine; let me tell you that, Mama.
- Interviewer: Now, Mr. Armstrong, we the public has seen so much of you and has heard your music all across the streets of New York, Chicago, and Louisiana. How do you feel when you know that you have accomplished all of this?
- Armstrong: It's fantastic! To know that I can share my talents and ambitions to everyone in the world just puts a huge smile on my face.
- Interviewer: How did you get this far in your career? Was growing up just a piece of cake?
- Armstrong: Oh, no. Growing up was hard. I had to work my way up here. I lived in poverty and had to work countless jobs for money. That is until my idol found me.
- Interviewer: Oh? And who was your idol as a child?
- Armstrong: The one and only Joe “King” Oliver. The best trumpet player out there, let me tell you. He took his time to mentor me, a fine favor that I feel like I could never pay back with actions. As he moved to bigger dreams, I took his spot on the Kid Ory’s band—where my passion and devotion developed strongly.
- Interviewer: Now, growing up your fame gradually increased. How did you feel about touring places and leaving home?
- Armstrong: Well, you know leaving home isn’t always as dandy as it sounds. Touring, I must say, kept me awake, kept me alive. These different places only add to my experiences as a musician, but I always went on back home; never forgot my roots.
- Interviewer: What do you hope to achieve within the next few years?
- Armstrong: It’s always nice to become even bigger from where I am today. I’d like to reach number one on those song charts. I’d like to even be played often on every radio station, but only God knows when all white men will come to their senses and end this racial feud that we face. The sound of my music on the radio lifts me to a place where I have never been before; it is like a Heaven for all musicians. I am just as proud as my momma would be when I hear my songs for the public.
- Interviewer: You are just heart warming. Aside from all your business work and music accomplishments, how is your personal life going? Any “special someone” in your life?
- Armstrong: To tell you the truth, there has been one special gal in my life, but she’s gone away. The name was Lil, my previous piano player. As time went on, I don’t know what happened really, but it just didn’t work out in the end.
- Interviewer: I’m sorry, sir.
- Armstrong: Oh, please. Don’t give me your sympathy.

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- Interviewer: What other areas do you excel in?
- Armstrong: If by excel you mean shine and lead, then other than that golden instrument that I rule, I also lead bands, sing, film stars, and sometimes even crack a joke here and there.
- Interviewer: My, my. We have a legendary man standing right in front of me! Mr. Armstrong, I would like to thank you with all my will for your time! You are a wonderful, talented, and gifted man. Don't let anyone take that away from you!
- Armstrong: Why thank you. I enjoy doing what I do and it is for people like you. My pleasure.

Louis Armstrong, the king and I,  
Both have our music and dreams up high.  
Though we have our own ways to execute  
They will always be there to reach and shoot.

Cypress, California, born and raised  
On the playground is where I spent most of my days  
Chillin' out, maxin', relaxin', all cool  
Shootin' some B-ball out side of school

When a couple of songs, they were on my fav.'s list  
Started playing loudly amongst the midst  
I sang in one part of the song and I didn't care  
Because people can look, judge, or do anything else especially stare

I walk up to the piano 'round seven or eight  
Then I yelled to the fans "Hey, how you doin'?"  
Look at my kingdom I was finally there  
To sit on my throne as the Queen millionaire.

Louis Armstrong sought to entertain, enlighten, and bring enjoyment to those who loved music as much as he did. Armstrong accomplished his dreams through hard work and perseverance fueled by his desire to entertain others. His life's work defines the essence of the American Dream, a dream rooted in desire that can only come to pass when it is met with dedication to an art and an attentive commitment to excellence.

## Reflective Endnotes

### Genre #1: My Diary Entry

The reason for this genre is to show how music plays a part in my life, how I view and use it in everyday life. I write about a few influences and advice that have stuck with me or have stuck out to me throughout my life. I think that this is important in mentioning so that the audience can see my view in music and how I would interpret listening to music and being involved with it. With this shown and given, the audience can then make the connection that the paper's central topic is about music and how Louis Armstrong and I have our similarities and differences. I started this as the first genre to allow readers to get a feel of how I think.

### Genre #2: Poem

This genre is supposed to be a poem about how I discovered my first interests for the piano and singing. It marks the beginning of my journey to my American Dream. This poem is about the irresistible spark of interest that I had when I was a child, and how soon those interests became my talents. I was influenced by my brother, who I would listen to play the piano after a lesson, and by my dad, who would sing songs on the karaoke machine and dedicate them to my mother. It is important for readers to know where my roots came from.

### Genre #3: Louis Armstrong Ad

This genre is an ad for Louis Armstrong to promote a concert or performance by him. It is supposed to give off a message to the public that Louis is becoming more famous and is in popular demand. The grey-scale coloring enhances the ad to make it look more authentic and more appropriate for that time. Plain and simple is a way to get a message across, and this ad was definitely plain and simple. The "King of Jazz" will now be known to the public.

### Genre #4: Newspaper Article

The Newspaper Article provides a brief history of Louis Armstrong, his development and achievements during his lifetime. This goes to show that Armstrong is in fact a great influence to music and society. This genre gives plenty of information to understand that he was an important role model and one of the greatest influences in today's music. I created this genre as a sort of tribute to Armstrong, not only to show the growth of his achievements, but to share the wealth of my knowledge of Armstrong and his success.

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## Genre #5: Reply to a fan letter

I think that this piece of genre is important because it displays the way Louis Armstrong handled business. I used an example that I found online; it was a letter of acceptance to a publisher for his book. The letter that Armstrong wrote showed exactly how his personality was—funny, joyful, and happy to do business. I tried myself to capture this tone of voice in my Armstrong letter to a fan. It is important to see how Armstrong handled the business part of his job, and it is amazing that he still handled it with such a bright attitude and a thankful tone.

## Genre #6: Schedule

This charted schedule lists the places that Armstrong had to go to in order to complete some of his tasks. Its main idea is to display how busy Armstrong was beginning to get. Day after day he had work to do and places to fly out to. With such a busy schedule, it is shown just how popular Armstrong was and his growth as a musician. The chart was meant to be easy to read and attain information from so that it would be easy to understand his popular demand by the people.

## Genre #7: Interview

The interview is one of the more important genres. This piece tells Armstrong's own opinion, history, and life stories given by him. Not only does it display his personality and jolly attitude, but also his hard work to get where he was at that day. I saved it for last to tie everything together. It was quite interesting, and at the same time somewhat challenging, to pretend like I was Armstrong through the information that I researched. I did not want to lower his image, so I tried to make him seem as bright as possible with all the accurate facts that I have retrieved. This interview is important because it gives so much detail in a way that suits Armstrong when he speaks and tells his life story.

## Annotated Bibliography

“Armstrong, Louis.” Collier’s Encyclopedia. 1989 ed.

In the encyclopedia was a short article on Louis Armstrong. I used this as a reference for more information, and just looked back at it when comparing information and also gaining information. Because the article was fairly short, this source was not one of the more important ones compared to the others.

Biographies–Louis Armstrong. 2000. Jazz at Lincoln Center. 8 Dec. 2005.  
<[http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist\\_id\\_armstrong\\_louis.htm](http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist_id_armstrong_louis.htm)>.

This website provided Louis Armstrong’s life story—from his birth, successes, and death. The page focuses on jazz influences and leaders, so it is like their “specialty” to be writing about a man like Louis Armstrong. There are also links that you can click on to listen to some of his songs that were recorded in the 1920’s. I used some of the valuable information given on this site in some of my genres.

Jon Krakauer. Into Thin Air. United States: Villard Books, 1997.

This book was used as an example for my own multi-genre paper. Jon Krakauer writes about his amazing, once in a lifetime experience on the one and only Mount Everest using different pieces of work, or genres, to help support his text and knowledge. After reading and understanding how he incorporated each genre piece into the writing itself, I learned to grasp the concept of adding my own genres into another piece of my work. This book sets as a perfect example for the multi-genre paper.

Louis Armstrong. 6 Dec. 2005. <<http://www.redhotjazz.com/louie.html>>.

This website that I found helped with the information that I needed. This website, unlike some of the others, provides a long history of Louis’ upcoming stardom and road to becoming famous. It also provided links to other key words if I didn’t know what that word was. This was a valuable website and came in quite handy. It also lists the groups that Armstrong was in and which movies he was filmed in.

Louis Armstrong – Acceptance Letter. DIALOGUS. 4 Dec. 2005.  
<<http://www.dialogus2.org/enARMS/enARMS-acceptance.html>>.

This was a great example to my genre “Letter to the Fan.” It’s an actual letter that Louis Armstrong wrote to a publisher accepting her proposal. This shows how he handled business. It was quite entertaining to see how he wrote in letters. I tried using the same jolly and joking tone when writing the letter to a fan.

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Louis Armstrong Quotes. FortuneCity. 8 Dec. 2005.  
<<http://tinpan.fortunecity.com/riff/11/quotes.html>>.

This website contained quotes from musicians all over the world. All of these quotes were Louis Armstrong's. I used the one that said "I never tried to prove nothing, just wanted to give a good show." I thought that this quote just showed who Armstrong was, what kind of person he was. He was not only being humble and modest, but enjoying what he does. It fit perfectly into one of the song's beats, so I just had to add it in with my paper.

Louis Armstrong – Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. 8 Jan. 2006, Wikimedia. 4 Dec. 2005.  
<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis\\_Armstrong#Personality](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Armstrong#Personality)>.

Wikimedia's website about Louis Armstrong offers numerous subjects about him, such as his early life, early career, music, and his legacy. I was most attracted to the section about his personality. This allowed me to really get to know who Louis was as an individual and what he thought about society and his interests. This was important and useful for me to gain that one-on-one connection in my writing. In my "Letter to the Fan" genre, I copied Louis Armstrong's real signature from this website to make the letter seem more authentic and real.

The Official Site of the Louis Armstrong House & Archives. 2002. Louis Armstrong House & Archives.  
29 Nov. 2005. <<http://www.satchmo.net/bio/>>.

This was another website that provided short information about Louis Armstrong and his achievements during his life. There are bullets that mark his achievements and a short paragraph about his past. This website became useful and important for quick and straight forward, needed information.

Portfolio in Black & White. Nuts and Bolts Interactive. 1 Dec. 2005.  
<[http://discosantigos.com/Portfolio/1959\\_LouisArmstrong.html](http://discosantigos.com/Portfolio/1959_LouisArmstrong.html)>.

I used the picture from this website for the ad genre that I made. I thought that it was a great picture that portrayed his happiness and love for his instrument. This photo makes Louis look like the happiest man on earth, and I chose this picture to use because it gave off a good feeling towards the ad that I made.