

Case Studies: Genre and Instructional Goals

Directions

Divide into groups. Read (or skim) the cases included in this packet and try to identify which type of case each is. On p. 7 of the main handout, six types of case are enumerated (Background, Exercise, Complex, Incident, Situation, and Decision Cases); this is a typology designed for business cases, and may not work for all of the following cases, which are at least broadly “scientific” cases. But do the best you can to classify each with this typology.

Use the form below to record your group’s consensus on each case. If you have trouble classifying a case, or cannot choose between two types, note in the third column why you find this difficult. If you cannot classify the case, use the third column to explain the instructional goals behind the case’s structure.

My recommendation is that you read each case individually, then discuss how to classify it, and only at this point move on to the next. Try to finish the assignment in the time allocated. Remember that you do not have to analyze the case or answer any questions given in it: just think about how the case is structured, and the instructional goals behind it.

Case	Genre	Classificatory Challenges/ Instructional Goals behind Structure
Tale of Two Houses		
Walk through Mike’s Code		
What is Native Fluency?		
Mary Keeper’s Aching Head		