Pitch Perfect
GENRE WORKSHEET

A "genre" is a category of literature, like "mystery" or "romance" or "science fiction." Genre is important in a pitch because it provides the editor or agent with a general context and sets expectations about your story.

Where would readers look for your book when it's published?
To find out, browse in a bookstore or library (online or brick-and-mortar) and try to figure out where your book would be "shelved" or categorized. It's okay to have more than one answer to this question.

_____

_____

What existing books might appeal to readers who love your story? How so?
Think about the "flavor" of the story – is it an adventure? A coming-of-age? A cautionary tale? A self-deprecating humorous quasi-memoir? This does not refer to the *style* of writing, but the kind of story.

Readers who loved _____ [e.g. the Harry Potter series]

will enjoy my story because: _____

Ways they're similar: _____

Ways they're different: _____

Which authors do you "write like?" How so?
Do you write with humor similar to Janet Evanovich? Do you favor simple sentences like Neil Gaiman? Do you provide rich historical detail like Diana Gabaldon? This is not to say you write *exactly* like the author(s) you name, or that you are telling the same kind of story. Rather you're trying to form a point of comparison (or more than one) with a known author or authors.

I write like: _____

in this way: _____

Other ways we're similar: _____

Ways we're different: _____

The standard word count (book length) for your genre: _____ **Your word count is:** _____

For guidelines and genre word count ranges visit:
www.writersdigest.com/editor-blogs/guide-to-literary-agents/word-count-for-novels-and-childrens-books-the-definitive-post

What expectations or requirements exist that are specific to your genre?

An overview of genre and sub-genre elements can be found here:
www.writersdigest.com/writing-articles/genredefinitions

To learn more about *your specific genre*, do an Internet search on the words
"genre" +
"[your genre]" (e.g. "science fiction," "women's fiction," "thriller") +
"reader expectations" or "criteria" or "elements" or "requirements"

Genre expectations for my story: _____

_____

_____

For your *logline*, what specialty expectations or requirements exist for your genre?

For example:
• romance loglines should include both the hero and heroine
• speculative fiction loglines should include setting or "special world"
• literary loglines often address theme
• loglines for younger readers should indicate an age-appropriate protagonist and a conflict that appeals/applies to the age of the reader

My logline should reflect these genre expectations: _____

_____

_____