

CHATting It Up With Scorecards: A Genre Analysis of a Golf Scorecard

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In this article, golf scorecards are explored using P-CHAT. P-CHAT is a process used to analyze how genres work as part of different literate activities. A golf scorecard is a genre that golfers use when they are on the golf course. I use the process of P-CHAT to break down the genre of a scorecard and the role it plays in the activity system of a round of golf.

Golf Scorecards: What Are Those?

Let me begin by giving you a scenario. Imagine that you are at your dream destination, where the grass is green and lush. The weather is just right out, and you are warmed up and are ready to enjoy a beautiful day on the golf course! Yes, you heard me right. The golf course! Some of you may not be familiar with this place and that is totally fine. Golf is not an easy game and will always provide you with a challenge, but it is a sport that a person can play for many years of their life. After learning a little more about the game, you may soon find yourself eager to give the game a few good swings!

After arriving to the first tee, you are greeted by the starter who hands you your very own scorecard. The starter at a golf course is someone who is responsible for teeing off each group of golfers on schedule. The starter is the individual who gives you THE most important document on the golf course: the scorecard. The starter will usually say, “Please introduce yourself to your playing partners and exchange your scorecards.” After the scorecard exchange, the starter calls you to the tee and you hit your first shot right down the middle (see Figure 1). What a way to start the round!



Figure 1: The starter and I at the IHSA State Golf Tournament.

You may be wondering what I am describing in this scenario and how it relates to a scorecard. In this example, I am describing the exchange of scorecards that takes place between players before a golf tournament. However, even if you never play in a golf tournament and just like to golf for fun, a golf scorecard will still be an important part of the round of golf. Using what writing research calls pedagogical cultural-historical activity theory, or P-CHAT, we will break down the genre of a scorecard into much more detail and be able to understand the role of scorecards on the golf course.

P-CHAT! What Is It?

You may be wondering what P-CHAT even is and how it even relates to a scorecard. Before we jump into how a scorecard relates to P-CHAT, it is important to understand the basics. I had never heard of P-CHAT until my freshmen year of college in English 101. In this class, I learned that P-CHAT is an acronym for **pedagogical cultural-historical activity theory**, and was created by the Illinois State University Writing Program to provide students like myself with a way of thinking about research and writing. Before analyzing the components that make a scorecard using the process called P-CHAT, I think it is important to understand the basics of the process. If you are unfamiliar with this P-CHAT term, you are not alone! I was introduced to P-CHAT not too long ago myself. It may seem like a complicated concept at first, which it is but as a student like you, I can assure you that it is a very useful tool that has helped me improve my writing and analysis skills. Through lots of practice and of course some inevitable failure, I have become much more comfortable using this process and I know you will too! There are seven concepts associated with P-CHAT: reception, representation, socialization, production, ecology, distribution, and activity. These terms can be used to evaluate and understand how a complex genre works, as they help to trace aspects of how the genre is produced, how it's used, how it relates to other genres, and how it evolves over time, which can help you to gain a better understanding of that genre.

You may have noticed that I keep using the word 'genre' as I discuss scorecards and P-CHAT. As defined by Berkenkotter and Huckin (1993), "genres are dynamic rhetorical forms that develop from responses to recurrent situations and serve to stabilize experience and give it coherence

and meaning” (479). There are so many types of genres that surround us every day that we do not think of as genres. Think back to the last time you looked at a menu? Did you think of it as a genre? Probably not. I didn’t either, until a short time ago when I learned that basically everything around us is a genre.

In the scenario above where I was describing the starter giving you a scorecard, that scorecard is a genre that is used to keep your score as well as other player’s scores if you are in a tournament or competition. According to Golf Distillery, “in its physical form, the **scorecard** is a rigid piece of paper that a golfer uses to keep track of the number of strokes taken on each hole, among other things” (Scorecard Terms). Although it may feel weird to call a scorecard a genre, a scorecard fits the definition of a genre that I just discussed. If you think about it, a golf scorecard for the golfers at a golf course is really no different than a menu or any other genre. We can probably all agree that a menu is definitely a genre as it contains distinct conventions that tell the viewer that they are looking at a menu. For example, a menu includes the title of the restaurant on the front as well as a list of sides, appetizers, entrees, drinks, desserts and more that the restaurant has to offer. In addition to this, a description of each dish may be listed underneath the name of the dish, and prices are included next to the dish at most restaurants. We don’t have to think about all of these features that make a menu a menu because we have grown accustomed to what a menu should look like. A golf scorecard is just like this. A scorecard contains many specific features that let us know that it is a scorecard. The following section will explore the specific genre conventions that make a scorecard recognizable as a genre.

The Genre of a Scorecard: Where Did It All Begin?

Before we talk about the modern scorecard we use today and the genre conventions of it, I think that it is important to discuss how this genre arose and why it has stood the test of time and still exists today. If you are at all familiar with professional or amateur golf, or any sport for that matter, think back to the day when score didn’t matter to the game. You probably will struggle to do that as score is a vital part of any type of game or sport. A competitive game requires scoring to determine a winner and a loser. How a game is scored and documented may differ among games, but the underlying reason for keeping score is the same. The game of golf is no exception to this. The golf scorecard first began as a way to track everyone’s individual score to determine the winner of the game. Ever since the fifteenth century

when the game of golf began, a scorecard has played a vital role in the game (The History of Golf). Since golf is very individualistic in nature, each player needed a way to track their own score. Individual scorecards played a vital role in achieving this purpose and still continue to play a very important role in the scoring process for the game. Although the process of keeping score in golf may look different than other sports, the underlying reason is the same. The scorecard in golf allows players to record their own scores after the completion of each hole, and these scores are tallied at the end of the round to arrive at the final score.

As someone who has transitioned from playing mostly leisure golf to mostly competitive golf, I have experienced how the purpose and importance of the scorecard changes depending on the circumstance I am in. For example, when I go out to play just for fun, I only keep my own score. This is probably the same for many of you. However, this all changes when I am in a golf tournament because now, I am responsible for not only keeping my own scorecard but also the scores of my playing partners. However, despite the differences in the environment between a leisure golfer and a competition golfer where a scorecard is present, the scorecard still plays a similar role in the **activity system** of a round of game. In both cases, the golfer is responsible for understanding what is on a scorecard and utilizing the information provided in an appropriate way to meet their specific needs, which in most cases is keeping score. Angela Sheets' explains what an activity system is in her Grassroots Writing Research Journal article, *Angela Rides the Bus*. She says that "an activity system is all the people, texts, tools, and rules that work together to achieve a particular objective" (Sheets). So, when thinking about a round of golf, a golf scorecard would serve as text because it provides us with information to read. It also serves as a tool for our round of golf because it gives us course yardages, a course map, as well as pin locations in some instances that are vital to know when playing a round. On some scorecards, a few local course rules are also included so we can say that a scorecard also provides us a set of rules for a round of golf.

- *Course yardages* – a number on the top of a scorecard that tells you how far the course is playing in total from different tee markers
- *Course map* – a small diagram of each hole showing which way the hole goes and what you will come across throughout the hole (water, bunkers, hazards)
- *Pin locations* – a small diagram of each green with numbers on it indicating which areas of the green the pin is located on for that day (the course will tell you which number the pins are playing for the day)

Therefore, no matter if I am playing a competitive round of golf in a tournament or just playing for fun on the weekends, a scorecard is a part of the activity system of a round of golf for me and is one of the many genres that is present and used as I navigate through my round of golf.

Now Let's CHAT It Up a Bit.

Using the activity theory of P-CHAT, we will begin to break down the genre of the scorecard. First, the P-CHAT term **production** “deals with the means through which a text is produced” (“Key Terms & Concepts”). The production aspect of the genre of a scorecard dates way back to when the game first began. Although the original scorecard is not highly documented, it can be presumed that scorecards we have today look quite a bit different considering the resources we have available to make and design the scorecards. Even scorecards that are used today at different golf courses vary dramatically in terms of layout, design, and color. There is an entire industry that focuses on creating scorecards for golf courses.

A scorecard may not seem like a big deal to a round of golf, but in reality, a scorecard is a very “integral component of the round” as “anyone who plays [the] course will look at it at least eighteen times, actively engaging with it as they fill in their scores” (Lavoie). There are standard components that every scorecard will have. These standard components are what make up the conventions for the genre, ultimately making the scorecard what it is. As stated by the ISU Writing Program, “*genre conventions* or *genre features* describe all the things a writer could discover (and discuss) about a particular genre that makes us recognize it as, well, what it is” (“Key Terms & Concepts”) A scorecard's size is one of the biggest indicators of what genre the document belongs to. A basic scorecard is usually about six inches tall and eight inches wide when fully opened up. This does not speak for all scorecards, but in general, a scorecard is smaller than a piece of notebook paper in size and is folded at least one time. Inside the card, it is up to the course to decide where the hole number, length of various tee boxes for each hole, the par for each hole, and the slope and rating for each tee box is placed on the card.

There is also additional information that is included on some scorecards depending on the course's preference. For example, some courses include a small map of every hole on the course. This provides golfers with an idea of where the hole is going, especially since it is very likely that one will not be able to see the green from the tee box. In golf, the green is the destination of where the hole is located. A golfer is trying to get their ball into the hole on the green on each of the eighteen holes. A tee box is where a golfer tees off

to begin each hole. Also, some scorecards include a section on special local rules that are specific to that course. Each golf course has the opportunity to make their scorecard unique by adding various features that they think will be useful to the golfers, but still follow the basic genre conventions of a scorecard in the process.

How Does a Scorecard Work?

The P-CHAT term **activity** is another important aspect for a scorecard. The activity of a scorecard deals with how a scorecard is used. Figure Six shows an image of the scorecard for the Illinois State University golf course called Weibring. Being on the ISU Women's Golf Team, I use this scorecard on regular basis and am very familiar with the information on it. However, this is not the case for all people, so I think that it is important to discuss aspects of the scorecard that people use.

The first thing that catches most people's attention is the name of the golf course on the front. This is simply a handy reminder of the course name if it is not a course you play regularly. The next thing that people will usually do (I am speaking based off my antecedent knowledge) is open up the scorecard to review the course yardages to determine what tees to play for the day. For most people, tee yardages are some of the most important numbers on the card as they will determine how far back you have to tee off from on every hole. In addition to the yardage, people will usually look at the par of the hole before teeing off every. The par of the hole is important for people to know how many shots it should take to finish a hole. If a scorecard says the hole is a three-par, that means that if the golfer takes three shots to finish the hole, they come out even, or "at par." And in golf, a lower score is better, so each golfer is trying to use as few shots as possible to make it to the green. So it makes a big difference whether the par for the hole is a score of three, four, or five when a golfer makes a decision! Again, this varies by player experience, but in general, the par of the hole is the goal score that is in mind for each hole.

The last part of the scorecard that is generally used in most circumstances is all of the blank boxes in the middle of the scorecard. You may be wondering why there are so many boxes necessary when there is only one score to write down for each hole. This idea comes back to the P-CHAT term **reception**. For me, I see all of these boxes as space for me to keep my stats for each hole. I like to make checkmarks in the boxes to keep track of the fairways and greens I hit as well as the number of putts I have on each hole. For other people, these boxes may provide them room to keep tally

marks to count their shots or as a place to write different notes about each hole or shot. The way these boxes are used solely depends on what each person thinks is the best use of space for their situation.

As you can see from the image of the scorecard (Figure 2), there is *tons* of boxes to fill out on a scorecard. However, not everyone will use all of the blanks every time they use a scorecard. A person’s **ecology** will determine what parts of the scorecard they will use each time. Ecology consists of the outside factors that exist that affect the text during the production stages as well as affect how the scorecard is used (“Key Terms & Concepts”). For example, if a person is just playing for fun and keeping score for their own benefit, the Scorer and Attest blanks at the bottom of the scorecard will not be used as these blanks are meant to be signed to verify that the score on the scorecard is correct only in a competitive setting.

Also, on the upper right-hand corner of the scorecard, there are two small columns called “Hcp and “Net.” These columns are also not used by everyone every time a scorecard is used. The two columns are only used when people are playing in a competitive environment, usually in a scramble or group event, where the tournament organizer wants to level the playing field for everyone. A person’s handicap, which is a plus or minus number based on one’s stroke average, works hand in hand to determine one’s net

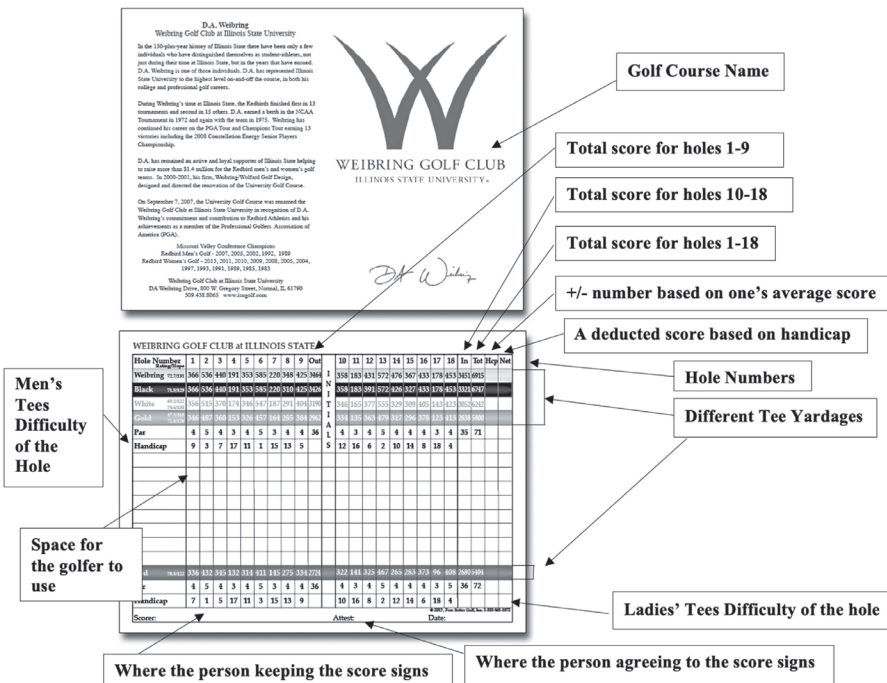


Figure 2: Annotated ISU Weibring Golf Course Scorecard.

score, which is a score that has shots deducted off the person's gross score (actual number of shots a person took) based on their handicap. As you can see, these two columns require a special situation to be used and are not used all the time. To be honest, I have never noticed these two columns before since my ecology has never forced me to become familiar with this area of the scorecard. This is very common with a scorecard because it can be used in so many different ways depending on the environment in which it is being utilized.

To give a unique example of how ecology matters, during practice one day with the ISU Woman's Golf Team, my scorecard consisted of only checks and Xs and no numbers on it. Since our team was only working on short game that day, the scorecard was used in a completely different way. Things like this happen all of the time with genres as people will find various ways to utilize genres that are not necessarily the genre's intended purpose.

The Changing Scorecard: A Scorecard's Genre Trajectory

Now that we understand some of the basic genre conventions of the scorecard and how a scorecard is used, it is important to look at how these genre conventions have changed over the years. Although the genre of the golf scorecard does still exist today, the trajectory of this genre has changed over time. According to ISU Writing, the term **genre trajectory** "means both how a text moves through a process of production, but even more importantly how texts move through institutions and spaces and in relationships among different people" and to the "changes that occur in a genre as it gets used over time." That being said, if we look at a scorecard in Figure 3 from many years ago and compare it to a modern scorecard in Figure 4, we will still see many similarities but also many examples of how the genre has evolved over the years.

If we look at a scorecard from the 1930s compared to the scorecards we use today, we can see that genre conventions for a scorecard have not changed much over the years. The earlier scorecards were usually formatted in a vertical arrangement instead of a horizontal arrangement like we have today, but much of the information is still the same. However, it is evident based on the scorecards we use today that the trajectory of the genre has expanded.

For example, today it is not uncommon to see a lot of advertisements on scorecards. Businesses are beginning to see scorecards as another opportunity to communicate their message to the public. Most golfers who are using the scorecard with all of these ads don't have a positive reception toward the ads because it takes up space they could be using on the scorecard. On the other

Augusta National Championship
April 1, 2, 3, 4 - 1937

HOKA 1876 GREENS

HOLE	REGULAR DISTANCES	CHAMPIONSHIP DISTANCES	PAR	HANDICAP RATING	NO. OF PLAYERS	SCORES	NO. OF PLAYERS	SCORES
1	380	400	4	9	10	410	430	4 6 5 2 4 2 5
2	490	525	5	1	11	390	415	4 12 5 2 4 2 5
3	335	350	4	11	12	130	150	3 16 4 2 3 2 4 2 4
4	175	190	3	15	13	455	480	5 4 5 2 5 2 5 2 5
5	425	440	4	5	14	405	425	4 6 5 2 4 2 5 2 4
6	160	185	3	17	15	465	485	5 2 5 2 4 1 5 2 5
7	320	340	4	13	16	120	145	3 18 3 2 3 2 4 2 3
8	475	500	5	3	17	380	400	4 14 5 2 4 2 4 2 5
9	390	420	4	7	18	395	420	4 10 4 2 5 2 3 2 4
Total	3150	3350	36			3150	3350	36
In						360	37	39
Out						3150	3350	36
Total	6300	6700	72			71	72	77

Figure 3: 1937 Master’s Scorecard. (greenjacketauctions.com/bids/bidplace?itemid=21018pro).

Blue	70.8(129)	462	355	351	446	180	380	552	522	291	523	1	567	380	395	535	166	384	100	433	415	5289	6521
White	68.9(126)	415	318	336	396	166	350	512	311	179	3034	7	531	365	328	320	144	303	174	395	394	5010	6041
Gold	67.1(113)	336	330	325	356	154	353	463	292	156	2895	7	486	356	335	287	118	336	155	362	354	2739	3534
Red	65.5(108)	389	325	288	352	144	321	394	289	140	2048	4	440	288	290	235	93	312	146	312	346	2496	3140
Handicap	15	9	5	3	15	7	1	11	17			1	13	6	12	8	16	4	18	10	2		
Par	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	4	3	36		5	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	35	71
Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total	Hcp/Net
RIVER COURSE																							
Handicap	5	9	15	5	15	7	1	11	17			2	4	13	8	16	12	18	10	6			
Gold	72.2(129)	496	340	325	356	154	353	463	292	156	2895	4	440	288	290	235	93	312	146	312	346	2496	3140
Red	69.3(120)	389	325	288	352	144	321	394	289	140	2048	4	440	288	290	235	93	312	146	312	346	2496	3140
Silver	67.6(110)	458	295	258	289	139	267	389	263	138	2432	3	312	211	280	223	81	279	132	291	360	2231	1624
Date:	Score:										Atroc:												

Whispering Pines Country Club
1959
Architected 1959
brown golf
Architected 1959

Figure 4: Whispering Pines CC Scorecard. (chronogolf.com/blog/golf-scorecarddesign-best-practices).

hand, golfers who may not be familiar with the area the golf course is in may have a positive reception to the ads since it may help them find a good restaurant to eat at after their round! Nevertheless, having advertisements are seen as a norm in our day in age and golfers are adapting to seeing ads on their scorecards.

Continuing with the discussion of genre trajectory, even the traditional word “scorecard” has expanded into multiple meanings. In addition to the traditional paper card, there is what is called a digital scorecard. In terms of production, not all digital scorecards necessarily fit the standard conventions of a scorecard as different types of digital scorecards serve different roles in the activity system of golf. A digital tournament scorecard is often used in an online setting to reflect one’s score (hole by hole) to viewers of the tournament. This is what is called live scoring in a tournament setting where outside viewers are able to see the score of a golfer on each hole in real time without actually being at the tournament. This type of scorecard strictly contains the hole number and yardage as the golfer playing the round of golf does not see this scorecard, so no additional information is needed.

It is also common for golfers to track their scores digitally on a digital scorecard on an app instead of on a physical scorecard. This allows golfers to keep track of all their stats without having to keep track of a piece of

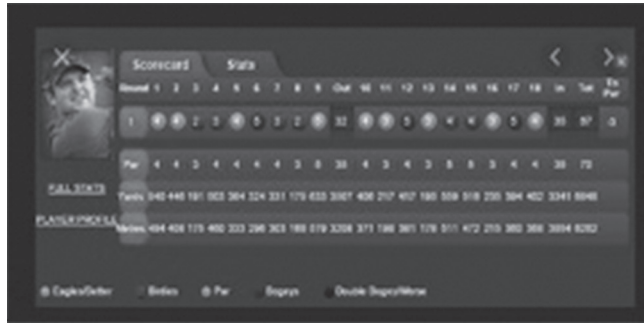


Figure 5: Patrick Reed's Digital Scorecard from the 2018 Master's Tournament (<https://progolfnow.com/2015/07/23/patrick-reed-in-the-mix-at-the-omega-european-masters/>).

paper over time. Although a physical scorecard is still used in competitive tournaments to keep score most competitive golfers have an online resource they also use to track their score, as well as many other stats to see what areas of their game they need to work on. As a competitive golfer, this process is something I work through for every round of golf I play. During the round, I will have the official scorecard where I keep a specific person's score as well as my own. I will also have a stat sheet that I fill out after the completion of each hole. The stat sheet is something that the ISU Women's Golf Team does as well as other college golf teams to keep stats. However, it is also not uncommon to see other teams keeping their stats on a blank scorecard. It is all up to what the coach wants their players to do. Either way, competitive golfers are not permitted to use their cell phones or any other digital devices during the round so a digital scorecard is not an option. For a leisure golfer, they have the freedom to choose between a physical scorecard or a digital one, if they have a golf app with scoring capabilities.

As more people abandon the traditional physical scorecard, it is quite possible that they may be less prevalent in the golf world in the future. As technology continues to become an even stronger force in our society, the genre of scorecards is changing as well. Of course, this is not absolute, but as our society continues to advance in technology, it is very possible that the production aspects of a scorecard will also continue to change, and that the trajectory of this genre will continue to expand in other ways.

Back to the Definition

After analyzing scorecards and examining the expanding trajectory of this genre, it is important to come back to one other important element of the definition of scorecards. You may have noticed that in the definition of a

scorecard that was mentioned earlier in the article, Golf Distillery includes the words “among other things.” I am guessing that most of you probably didn’t think much of anything when hearing those words and probably disregarded it. That is because your previous knowledge of scorecards is a bit different than mine. Like many other genres, a scorecard is something that is looked at by many different people, with different antecedent knowledge for this genre. According to the ISU Writing Program website, **antecedent knowledge** is “a term we use to describe all the things a writer already knows that can come into play when a writer takes up any kind of writing.” In the genre of a scorecard, the golfer is the writer, and the kind of writing (genre) is a scorecard. So, if you have never really been exposed to a scorecard, you don’t have much antecedent knowledge of this genre. You don’t have a lot of past knowledge about a scorecard that you can use to help you read and fill out a scorecard right now. For people like myself, however, who have been frequently exposed to scorecards, I have gained a lot of antecedent knowledge about this genre that I use to help me write my score and other information on my scorecard. So, when I am given a scorecard, my antecedent knowledge of scorecards comes into play and impacts what I write on my scorecard.

That being said, these “other things” in the definition of scorecard are the many other things that people are able to write on a scorecard in addition to just their score. Having quite a bit of experience with scorecards, I have quite a few ideas that come to mind when I hear those words in the definition. Figure 6 is example of my “among other things” that I include on my scorecard. I take many detailed notes about what happens in my round,

WEIBRING GOLF CLUB at ILLINOIS STATE																							
Hole Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total	Flag	Net
Yellow	366	336	443	391	353	385	220	348	425	366	358	183	431	377	476	342	433	376	453	345	415		
Black	366	336	443	391	353	385	220	348	425	366	358	183	391	372	426	327	453	376	453	302	376		
White	356	316	376	374	346	347	187	291	406	326	346	165	377	359	329	349	405	343	435	305	366		
Gold	316	276	346	328	328	427	258	299	383	299	334	131	263	473	337	229	309	124	411	219	382		
Par	4	5	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	3	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	3	4	3	71		
Handicap	9	3	7	37	11	1	35	35	5	12	16	6	2	10	34	0	18	4					
M	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	4	3	5	36	72	
F	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
W/S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Approach	12	16	15	10	12	10	A	10	A	26	10	10	10	15	15	10	15	10	10	10	10	10	
Ball	5	5	1	2	4	3	3	3	3	3	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Red Tee Practice Oct 10																							
Red	336	332	345	332	314	331	149	275	354	275	322	142	325	347	285	283	373	39	418	288	368		
Par	4	5	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	3	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	3	4	3	5	56	92
Handicap	7	1	5	17	11	3	18	13	9	18	16	8	2	12	14	6	18	4					
Score																							
Attend																							
Date																							

Figure 6: These are the “other things” that I keep track of on my scorecard. These details provide me with the ability to break down my round and are essential to help me to recognize where I need to make improvements to my game.

in addition to simply keeping score. These small details that I track allow me to analyze my golf round in great depth and to see what areas of my game need improvement. I like to use many of the boxes on the scorecard to write whether or not I hit the green on a hole or if I was successful in hitting the fairway of the tee. I also included approach distances and putt lengths on this particular scorecard. However, I do not always include that distance information because in some instances, my golf coach gives me a different document to track that information that is used for a different purpose. Therefore, the circumstance makes a difference what “other things” that I include on my scorecard.

Your Uptake of This Genre

At this point, you may be completely overwhelmed and confused by this genre. You are probably wondering why in the world I wrote so much on my scorecard and how I ever learned to do that. I can guarantee you that you are not alone, as even I was thinking the same thing earlier on in my golf journey. I didn't always write all of this information on my scorecard and have learned to do so over time as my golf game as progressed. What I now write on my scorecard and how I utilize the information on the scorecard is a result of my uptake and my reception of the genre.

That being said, my **reception**, or how I perceive the genre of a scorecard, may be much different than someone who may be seeing a scorecard for the first time today because of my antecedent knowledge. For example, since I use the genre of a scorecard almost every day, I am no longer overwhelmed by all of the information on a scorecard and have learned how to use this information to help me. Today, my reception of scorecards is that they are a simple tool for me to use on the golf course. But, for those of you who may be seeing scorecards for the first time today, your reception of scorecards may be much different and that is okay.

Reception is not something that doesn't ever change. Our reception toward a genre is something that may change with each new experience or encounter with the genre. Speaking from personal experience, I can remember when I was first introduced to the genre of scorecards. I was overwhelmed and confused, to say the least. However, as I continued to be exposed to scorecards in a variety of different settings, I gained lots of antecedent knowledge by seeing what other golfers did and trying to make sense of it. This is what writers call **uptake**. As I was being exposed to scorecards, I was thinking about what I was seeing other people and how

other people wrote on their scorecard and then applying this to how I did my scorecards. With practice and exposure, I have grown accustomed to reading other courses' scorecards and figuring how to use the information on the card to my advantage. In addition, I have gained the confidence to use the scorecard in a way that I have found that helps me, which in my case is having a lot of writing on the scorecard. This may be different from what other people do but that is fine because everyone sees things in a different way and has a different reception of the genre. This same concept applies to all genres and not just scorecards. Everyone has different backgrounds and antecedent knowledge in different genres, which ultimately shapes their reception of a genre.

A Life Full of Genres

If at this point you are still feeling a bit overwhelmed with all of this P-CHAT and genre discussion, it is important to realize that a feeling like this is *completely* normal. As I said before, I was very overwhelmed and confused when I first was exposed to the genre of a scorecard. If you think about it, why wouldn't I be? It was the first time being exposed to a genre that I had no antecedent knowledge in.

The same idea applies to all genres. Almost every genre can seem simple from the outside, but one quickly can find out that this is not the case when they dive a little deeper into the genre. For example, this is the first time I have ever analyzed a scorecard in this way before. It amazes me how complex this genre is in reality and how much information is actually contained on such a small piece of paper. Since I use scorecards all of the time, I normally don't stress too much over seeing and using a scorecard. However, as I analyze the genre of scorecards through a whole new lens using the theory of P-CHAT, I have become much more aware of what I know about this genre (antecedent knowledge and uptake) and why I see this genre the way I do (reception).

With this being said, it may seem scary at first to confront genres head on, but there is nothing to be afraid as you experience and come in contact with all types of genres in your life. You have been exposed to new genres for your entire life. You probably didn't associate the term "genre" with them, but it is important to be aware that genres are everywhere around you. The P-CHAT concepts give you the tools you need to conquer any genre you encounter. It takes some practice with working with these concepts, but before you know it, you will be able to break down complex genres and to jump out of the box as you think about all of the aspects related to the genre,

ultimately allowing you to get a comprehensive understanding and analysis of any genre that you encounter.

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