

Role-Audience-Format-Topic (RAFT)



Description

This strategy asks students to creatively analyze and synthesize the information from a particular text or texts by taking on a particular role or perspective, defining the target audience, and choosing an appropriate written format to convey their understanding of the content topic (Vandervanter in Adler 1982; Santa, 1988).

Purpose

Use *before*, *during*, and *after* reading to

- Enhance comprehension of main ideas, organization, and point of view
- Process information and reflect
- Provide a creative approach for communicating what was learned that enhances engagement in writing or presentation tasks
- Encourage students to consider perspectives different than their own
- Help students communicate what they have learned using their preferred learning styles

Directions

1. Explain what a **RAFT** is and why it is helpful.
2. Model a **RAFT** for students using a simple text or well-known concept/topic.
3. Assign a text for students to read. Before reading, note the different perspectives in the text.
4. Brainstorm 3-4 possible **RAFTs** students could choose.
5. Asks students to select **RAFTs** to communicate their learning.

RAFT Examples for a Unit on Exercise

Role	Audience	Format	Topic
Newspaper reporter	Readers in the US	Feature	Health habits of U.S. regions
Lawyer	U.S. Supreme Court	Appeal speech	Right not to exercise
Inventor	Patent office	Petition	Revolutionary exercise machine
Heart	Person	Complaint	Not enough exercise
Boss	Employees	Email	Encouraging more exercise

Extensions

- Have students work in cooperative pairs or small groups.
- Have individual students or small groups brainstorm the four **RAFT** components rather than using the teacher-created list.
- Have students present their **RAFT** writing/presentations to other audiences.

Role-Audience-Format-Topic (RAFT) Template

Name _____ Date _____

Concept to be addressed in the **RAFT** _____

Ideas for **RAFTs** related to this concept

ROLE	AUDIENCE	FORMAT	TOPIC

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Student's choice for **RAFT** components

Role _____

Audience _____

Format _____

Topic _____

Role-Audience-Format-Topic (RAFT) Content Examples

Mathematics

Have students demonstrate their understanding of geometrical concepts.

Role	Audience	Format	Topic
Architect	Editor of Geometric Homes Journal	Advertisement	2 and 3 dimensional shapes
Student group	School board	Cover letter and design for baseball field	Transformations and symmetry
Toy	Designer	Children instructions for simple puzzles	Geometric shapes

Science

Have students summarize their understanding of potential impact of earthquakes and volcanoes.

Role	Audience	Format	Topic
Research lab scientist	City planning board	Presentation on needed regulations	Probability of earthquake within 20 years
Doomsday religious fanatic	Protest at governor's office	Pamphlets and home video	Recent volcano eruption in state is proof the end is near
Neighbors	Environmental Protection Agency	Petition for insurance coverage	Need for EPA to require insurance for earthquake damage

Social Studies

Help students connect aspects of foreign cultures to their own lives using **RAFTs**.

Role	Audience	Format	Topic
Peace Corp volunteer	U.S. President	Letter and "White Paper"	Increasing US financial support to rural areas
Teacher	Foreign exchange students	Photo-journalism presentations	Literature reflects cultural history and values
Children	Alien from outer space	Discussion	Who they are

English Language Arts

Example for RAFT choices for an essay against teenage drinking.

Role	Audience	Format	Topic
Child	School counselor	Dialogue	Brother's anger and violence when drunk
Homeless teenager	Homeless shelter director	Application essay for housing	How binge drinking caused eviction from parents' home
Parent	Boss	Letter of resignation	Resigning because need to be at home to monitor teenage drinker
Girlfriend	Boyfriend	Series of I-messages	Breaking up because of drinking parties