

R.A.F.T
Classroom Prompts

- R** – role
A – audience
F – format
T – topic
S – strong verb

EXAMPLE:

You are Ulysses on you journey home from Troy affter being gone for over
(role)
ten years. Write a letter to your wife Penelope explaining why you
(format) (audience) (strong verb)
won't make it home for dinner, AGAIN.
(topic)

Description

The RAFT technique provides an easy, meaningful way to incorporate writing into content-area instruction. It includes the following four components:

- R: Role of Writer—Who are you? A principal, Beethoven, a human heart?
- A: Audience—To whom is this written? A corporation, a scientist, a lawyer?
- F: Format—What form will it take? A letter, a poem, a journal?
- T: Topic + Strong Verb—What important topic have I chosen? Choose a strong verb to describe your intent: persuade a corporation to accept your invention; demand payment for an injury; plead for leniency.

RAFT is especially effective because students write to an audience different from the teacher, and they write for a specific purpose. Because the writing is specific and well-focused, students understand the need to explain the topic clearly and completely.

The technique offers boundless opportunities for students to apply knowledge learned in content-area classrooms as they lead discussions, convince the class, or clarify a viewpoint. Teachers who have used RAFT report that the technique actually helps students learn more content. RAFT writing assignments also can be used at the beginning of a lesson to determine the students' background knowledge.

Procedure

- Step 1: Explain that all writers need to consider four components of every composition: role of writer, audience, format, and topic.
- Step 2: Brainstorm ideas about a topic. Select several topics from those mentioned.
- Step 3: Write RAFT on the board, and list possible roles, audiences, formats, and strong verbs that are appropriate for each topic.
- Step 4: Have students choose one of the examples to write about; or after discussing a topic, have students create their own RAFT writing assignment.

Example 2: Possible RAFT Writing Activities

Role	Audience	Format	Topic
citizen	Dem., Rep. or legislator	letter	Vote for recycling.
student	Japanese prime minister	letter	Persuade Japanese to stop killing whales for research purposes.
columnist Mike Royko	public	news column	Demand more gun control.
constituent	U.S. senator	letter	Plead to abolish capital punishment.
chemist	chemical company	instructions	Warn about combinations to avoid.
cracker	other crackers	travel guide	Journey through digestive system.
plant	sun	thank you note	Explain sun's role in plant's growth.
newswriter	public	news release	Explain how ozone layer was formed.
scientist	Charles Darwin	letter	Refute a point in evolution theory.
square root	whole number	love letter	Explain a relationship.
trout	self	diary	Describe effects of acid rain on lake
criminal	judge	plea	Explain why he shouldn't be punished
acute triangle	obtuse triangle	article/letter	Convince obtuse triangle to shape up and lose weight. Explain differences.
leader of country	government of country	resume	Explain why she/he is a strong leader
animal	zookeeper	letter	Explain what I'll need when brought to zoo
Bolsheviks	peasants	advertisement	Convince peasants of better situations.
store owner	new employees	memo	Let employees know what kinds of math they will use in the store.
mineral	8th-grade science student	request, plea	Tell why every 8th-grade student should know me.
lungs	smoker	radio commercial	Convince person to stop smoking.
red blood cell traveling through circulatory system	new cells traveling through the system	dialogue	Warn of hazards on journey, including peer pressure of white blood cells.

Source: Janice Strop, Wisconsin CRISS workshops.

Example 1: Mathematics RAFT Paper

R: point
A: teacher
F: letter
T: convince the teacher that you have an important function

Dear Mrs. Havens,

I am Pete, the point. I am one point of an endless number of points in space. I want to ask you if you will teach your students about us points and explain how every single geometric figure is made up of us. It is very important to me because it seems that many people think of the point as a small part of geometry since we are so little. Though we are little, we are one of the most important factors of our world of geometry. Without me and all other points, there would be no geometric figures. We are their building blocks. Though all lines are drawn with one solid mark, in reality, a line is an endless set of points going in opposite directions. A sphere is a figure with all points at an equal distance from a center point like me.

So please, tell your students all about us points. It troubles me when many think of us as unimportant specks in space. Please, spread the reality of our importance to the students you teach. My partners and I would appreciate it greatly. Thank you.

A point,

Pete

Source: Janice Strop, Wisconsin CRISS workshops.

Forms of Writing For Assignments

(An incomplete listing)

Advertisements	Expense accounts and defense	Memos
Affidavits	Explications	Menus
Analytical paragraphs/papers	Fact Sheets	Messages to/from the past/future
Anecdotes/stories	Five paragraph themes	Minutes of meetings
Announcements	Graffiti	Monologue
Applications	Greeting card or text	Mottoes
Bibliography annotations	Historical accounts	News stories – paper/radio/TV
Biographical sketches	Imaginative Literature: Fairy tales, myths, novels, plays	Orations
Blurbs: yearbook pictures	Indexes	Package copy
Blurbs: TV lists/book covers	Instructions	Paraphrases
Board game instructions	Internet	Parodies
Brochures	Interviews (real/imaginary)	Personalized license plates
Bumper stickers	Introduction	Persuasive: to public officials, to the editor, recommendations
Captions	Itineraries	Placards
Case studies	Job specifications	Poems:
Children's books	Journal entries	Villanelle
Commentaries	Lab reports	Haiku
Comparison paragraphs/papers	Las wills and testaments	Sonnets
Computer Programs	Legal briefs	Prayers
Constitution articles	Legislation	Précis
Consumer guide or report	Lessons plans	Prophecies and predictions
Contest entries (25 words)	Letters:	Proposals
Contrast paragraphs/papers	Advice	Psychiatrists' notes
Debate outlines/notes	Application/	Public notices
Declarations	Resignation	Public Statements
Definitions	Complaint	Reaction papers
Dialogues	Congratulation	Requests
Dictionary entries	From imaginary places	Responses and rebuttals
Directions: Guide to places, how-to, survival manuals	Inquiry	Resumes
Editorials	Lists	Reviews:
E-mail	Math notes/observations	Books
Encyclopedia entries	Math problem solutions	Movies
Environmental impact reports	Math record books	Outside reading
Epitaphs	Math story problems	Radio/TV programs
Eulogies		

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Strong Verbs for R.A.F.T.S. Assignments

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exemplify
fold
illuminate
improvise
melt
modify orchestrate
peruse
ponder
reconcile
record
reject
remark
review scrutinize
shriveled
trigger
visualize