

RAFTs

RAFT

– Role

– Audience

– Format

– Topic



For additional information and examples, see pp. 133-136 in
Fulfilling the Promise of the Differentiated Classroom

A RAFT...

- ...is a creative, fun strategy that encourages writing across the curriculum. Great for all subjects, but ideal for English.
- ...a way to encourage students to...
 - ...assume a role
 - ...consider their audience, while
 - ...examine a topic from their chosen perspective, and
 - ...writing in a particular format
- All of the above can serve as motivators by giving students *choice*, appealing to their *interests* and *learning profiles*, and adapting to student readiness levels.

RAFT:

ROLE	AUDIENCE	FORMAT	TOPIC

Possible RAFT Formats

- Advertisement
- Advice Column
- Application
- Cartoon
- Commercial
- Editorial
- Essay
- Eulogy
- Interview
- Invitation
- Memo
- Monologue
- News Story
- Pamphlet
- Petition
- Resume
- Review
- Skit
- Slogan
- Tape
- Telegram
- Warning
- Will
- Debate
- Yearbook

RAFTs can...

- Be differentiated in a variety of ways: readiness level, learning profile, and/or student interest
- Be created by the students or Incorporate a blank row for that option
- Be used as introductory “hooks” into a unit of study
- Keep one column consistent while varying the other columns in the RAFT grid



RAFT: *Love that Dog*

ROLE	AUDIENCE	FORMAT	TOPIC
You	Jack	Tribute poem	Love that dog, too
Sky	Jack	Concrete poem	Jack
Jack	Police	Rhyming poem	Run-away drivers
Miss Stretch-berry	Next year's class	Haiku	This boy I taught...
Rhyming poem	Free verse poem	Debate	Who is better?

RAFT: Romeo & Juliet

ROLE	AUDIENC	FORMAT	TOPIC
Love	The Capulets and Montagues	Collage of words and images	I am stronger than hate
Juliet	Self	Diary entry	Was Romeo really the right guy for me?
Friar Lawrence	People of Mantua	Apology letter	I've let you down
Traveling minstrel	Whoever will listen	Song	The sad story of Romeo and Juliet
Psychologist	Talk Show Audience	TV Talk Show	Romeo & Juliet: True love? Or teenage rebellion?
Romeo	Parents everywhere	Advice	What you need to know about teenagers

RAFT: 12th Grade, *Satire and Change*

ROLE	AUDIENCE	FORMAT	TOPIC
Tom Jones	Clarissa	Letter	I have an idea...
Emily Post	Jonathan Swift	Advice column (a more modest proposal)	We really shouldn't eat babies...
<i>Waiting for Guffman</i>	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	A retraction	The importance of being human
<i>The Rape of the Lock</i>	Milton	An epic simile	Lighten up, dude...
Change	Satire	Letter of thanks	You are the reason I exist
Satire	Politicians	Essay	Why you are easy targets
David Sedaris	The American Public	NPR radio segment	The American public
Satire	Unrest	Family Tree	How we're related
Satiric Activist	Community	Action Plan	What we need to change, and how I will do it...

TOM SAWYER'S RAFT

ROLE	AUDIENCE	FORMAT	TOPIC
Sid	Aunt Polly	Affidavit	Why Tom should get a lickin'
Huck	Self	Poem or Song	Who am I without my friend, Tom?
Aunt Polly	Widow Douglas	Dialogue	Nobody knows the troubles I've seen (because of Tom)!
Becky	Tom	Letter	How I really feel about you...
Injun Joe	Self	Drawing of Dream	Why I'm going to get even with Tom Sawyer... and HOW I'll do it!
Muff Potter	Townspeople	Speech	Why I thank goodness for Tom Sawyer....

- This Raft is also differentiated according to readiness; top 3 formats are more difficult.
- Post RAFT Assignment –
 1. Meet in "Mixed Character" Groups and share RAFT responses
 2. Compose an essay on the following topic: "Taking multiple perspectives into account, is Tom a hero? Why or why not?"

Astronomy RAFT

ROLE	AUDIENCE	FORMAT	TOPIC
Super giant star	Younger stars	Dialog	A look back on my life
Moon	Astronauts	Advice column	What to expect when you visit
A galaxy	Neighboring galaxies	Letter of concern	We are growing apart
A planet	Protoplanets	Motivational speaker	You too can be a strong, independent planet
Earth	Sun and other planets	Ricki Lake show	No, I am the center
Sun Tour Guide	Sun tourists	Dialog	Add some heat to your life
Galaxy	Other galaxies	Letter to the editor	What is this redshift trying to prove?
Pluto	Other planets	Petition	Why should I be a planet or moon?

Fractions RAFT

ROLE	AUDIENCE	FORMAT	TOPIC
Fraction	Whole Number	Children's Book	Do You Want a Piece of Me?
Fraction	Its Equivalents	Invitation and a Mask	Come to the Masquerade Ball!
Fraction-disguised -as-a decimal	The Public	Wanted Poster/ Warning Ad	Warning! This dangerous fraction is disguised as a decimal...
Fraction	Other Students	Paper People Wardrobe Changes	What to wear when you are a fraction, decimal, and percent

R.A.F.T. Activity on Fractions

Note: These activities were used to gauge student understanding of certain important "benchmark" learning objectives within the course.

5th Grade Team – Free Rock Elementary – Brighton, NY

ROLE	AUDIENCE	FORMAT	TOPIC
Fraction	Whole Numbers	Petitions	To be considered part of the family
Improper Fraction	Mixed Numbers	Reconciliation Letter	We're more alike than different
A Simplified Fraction	A Non-Simplified Fraction	Public Service Announcement	A case for simplicity
Greatest Common Fraction	Common Factor	Nursery Rhyme	I'm the greatest!
Equivalent Fractions	Non Equivalent	Personal Ad	How to find your soul mate
Least Common Multiple	Multiple Sets of Numbers	Recipe	The smaller, the better
Like Denominators in an Addition Problem	Unlike Denominators in an Addition Problem	Application Form	To become to like denominator
A Mixed Number that Needs to be Renamed to Subtract	5 th Grade Math Students	Riddle	What's my new name?
Like Denominators in an Subtraction Problem	Unlike Denominators in an Subtraction Problem	Story Board	How to become a like denominator
Fraction	Baker	Directions	To double the recipe
Estimated Sum	Fractions/Mixed Numbers	Advice Column	To become well-rounded

Technology Safety R.A.F.T.

Directions:

- Select one of the following prompts. The “**Role**” is the character you will become, and from whose perspective that you will write. The “**Audience**” is to whom that character will be writing. The “**Format**” is the form in which the opinion will be expressed. The “**Topic**” is just that – your topic! The “**Points of Discussion**” are those things that you should be sure to include in your project.
- All products must... 1) Include all necessary “Points of Discussion,” 2) Use a combination of words and pictures, 3) Communicate the topic clearly and forcefully, and 4) Be of professional quality – fit for publication for next year’s class.
- Circle the **ROLE** that you plan to pursue. Decide what materials you’ll need (digital camera, computer, poster paper, etc.) Plan your presentation, and clear it with your teacher before you begin working. You may use your notes to help you.

ROLE	AUDIENCE	FORMAT	TOPIC	POINTS OF DISCUSSION
<i>Teen Magazine's Fashion Editor</i>	Middle School Students	Double-page Magazine Spread	“Here’s what’s ‘IN’ in Technology-Education Fashion”	Eye wear; ear-wear; long hair; baggy clothes; jewelry; long sleeves
Referee	Middle School “Tech-thletes”	Instructional Playbook	“Instant Replay Out-takes: Fouls in the Technology Lab”	Running; horseplay; injuries; anchor activities
The Technology Lab	The Public	Wanted Posters	“Wanted: Students Caught in the Act of Breaking Clean-up Laws”	Your three primary “clean-up” responsibilities; your work area
Newspaper Writer	<i>Fauquier Times Democrat</i> Readers	Expose` Cover Story	“Undercover in the TMS Tech Lab: What Materials Talk about at Night”	Proper handling of hand tools, heavy items, materials; Cabinets
Scroll Saw and Drill Press	Each Other	Comic Strip	“What we wish middle school students knew about how to handle us...”	Drill Press: speed; chuck key; long end of board Scroll Saw: cut line and fingers; when the blade binds; hold-down; upper-guide adjustment Both: brush; holding work flat on table
A Computer who “works” in the Tech Lab	A “New” Computer – his first day at work	Power Point Presentation	“These are Your Rights!”	All items on “Technology Computer Rules” handout

Another RAFT example

ROLE	AUDIENCE	FORMAT	TOPIC
Bungee Cord	Someone in line at an amusement park	Storyboard, comic, or a diagram with captions	How I give people a jump that never seems to end...
Sixth grader	Second grader		
Shoe company	Shopper, consumer	Ad or commercial	Extreme forces
Athlete			

SECONDARY RAFT EXAMPLE:

This RAFT is designed to be used by students in a “French I” class as they are developing the basic structure of the language and basic vocabulary sets. Of particular interest here are present tense verbs and vocabulary centered on leisure activities.

.....

RAFT Goals:

Students should Know...

- Names of French-speaking Countries
- Conjugation of present tense verbs
- Vocabulary for leisure time activities

Understand...

A country’s geography affects how its people spend their leisure time.

Be Able to...

- Research a French speaking country to determine its basic geography
- Predict leisure activities people in a particular country might enjoy (based on its geography)
- Communicate information about leisure activities in French.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES RAFT

Directions:

- Select a French speaking country from the list on the board.
- Use research materials on the bookshelf, internet, and in your textbook to find information on the geography of that country. Get as much information about the country’s geography as you can find. *For example: What is the temperature like in the various seasons? Does it have lakes? Are parts of it bordered by oceans? Are there mountains? What resources are in the country that might affect leisure? Is there something in the history of the country that shapes recreation – for example, a long-time love of music?*
- Select one of the following options to help you practice making French sentences that use present tense verbs and vocabulary related to leisure.
- When you finish your work, we’ll do two more things:
 - First, you’ll have the chance to go over your work with a classmate to find ways to make it stronger.
 - Second, you’ll share what you have done with students who researched French speaking countries other than the one you learned about.

ROLE	AUDIENCE	FORMAT	TOPIC
Student	Self	Packing list with Notes	Here's what I need for my vacation and why I need it.
Native of the country	A visiting athlete	Map with symbols	Here's what to look for and do on your vacation here.
Tourist	Family at home	Series of post cards	Please send my.... because.....
Native of the country	Visitors on vacation	List of dos and don'ts	When in Rome....
Hiker or driver	Roads	Magazine interview	Where are you taking me?
Bureau of Tourism	Potential inhabitants	Travel poster with narration	You'll enjoy our best features!
Radio announcer	Listener	Informational feature	Come share the wonder!
<i>Fill in your</i>	<i>choice here.</i>	<i>Check with the</i>	<i>teacher for approval.</i>

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RAFT Format

ROLE	AUDIENCE	FORMAT	TOPIC

RAFT Jigsaw Graphic Organizer

SUBJECT DISCUSSED	CLASSMATE PRESENTING	NOTES