**Writing Strategy**

**R.A.F.T**

**(Role, Audience, Format, & Topic)**

**Purpose**

* Helps students understand their role as a write and how to effectively communicate their ideas
* Provides opportunities for students to focus on the audience they will address, the varied formats for writing, and the topic they’ll be writing about
* Helps students consider a topic from multiple perspectives, and to gain the ability to write for different audiences.

**Directions**

1. Explain to your students the various perspectives writers must consider when completing any writing assignment.
2. Decide on a writing topic based on an area of study in your classroom.
3. Students decide how their writing will be set up:
   1. Role of writer: Who are you?
   2. Audience: To whom are you writing?
   3. Format: In what format are you writing?
   4. Topic and Strong Verb: what are you writing about?

(example: Demand the business owner refund your money; Persuade the politician to support school funding)

1. Students write a piece and evaluate how RAFT affected their writing.

\*\*\*Writing a class RAFT the first time this is introduced makes it easier for students to understand the strategy and use it independently in the future.

**Examples**

* Economics example is provided below
* Attachment provides various Roles/Audiences, Formats, and Verbs that can be applied to different topics based on the class that you teach.

R.A.F.T. Writing Template can be found at:

<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/printouts/RAFTWritingTemplate.pdf>

Dean, Deborah, The Writing Process and Beyond, Urbana, IL: NCTE.

Economics Example:

Role: William Dollar

Audience: U.S. Mint/Bureau of Engraving

Format: Memorandum

Topic: Plead for Time off

TO: Personnel Director

FROM: William Dollar

DATE: April xx, 19xx

RE: Request for Vacation

My name is Dollar, Bill Dollar. I’ve been on the job for the last twelve months without a break, and I am writing to request a two-week vacation. In considering my request, I think it’s essential that you understand exactly how much work we dollar bills have to do during our time of service for the United States Treasury. One-dollar bills are the more prevalent, most used, and most abused of all the paper currency. Our life expectancy is only about 18 months. By comparison, the average $100 bill has been in circulation around nine years!

My journey through the many hands that hold me begins after I leave the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and get sent out to a Federal Reserve Bank. I was shipped to Richmond, Virginia, although I could have been sent to any one of the 12 Federal Reserve Banks located throughout the country. While it’s nice to travel and see the country, that first trip involves being bundled in currency “bricks” and chunked into armored trucks…no daylight or sunshine for us there! Then we get sent to regular banks when they need to increase the cash they have on hand for their customers. So while it seems like our job is pretty easy to start with, let me assure you it gets much worse from there.

In my case, I went out of our bank with a whole lot of other bills to become part of the day-laborer payroll of a construction company. It turns out there’s a lot of house-building going on in the fast-growing Research Triangle area of North Carolina, and a lot of temporary help is hired on that who’d been hauling sand all day to the cement mixers. On his way home, he stopped by the Better Burger Place for a buffalo burger and fries, and I ended up going into the cash register there. When they were closing up that evening, the manager divided up tip money among the wait staff, and I was off again.

I went into this very nice woman’s purse, but I didn’t stay there long. In fact, I didn’t stay any place too long; I was in and out of cash registers, fed into soft drink machines, passed back and forth between husbands and wives and kids, folded into swans and other strange shapes at late-night dinner tables, crumpled up and wadded into jeans pockets, and even washed a few times in laundromats.

But I know how crucial we are: employers use us to pay their workers, and the workers use us to buy food and medicines and clothes and gas, and then we’re used to pay the people who work in the grocery and drug stores, the malls, and the gas stations. Then those people use us all over again to pay not only for goods but also for services like haircuts and car washes.

It is true that in some ways my life is easier than it was for dollar bills that came before me, because people use checks, credit cards, debit cards, and other electronic transfers more and more all the time. But there will always be a need for good old hard cash like me. It’s just that I’m awfully tired from all my travels, and I may only have another year at the most left in me before I’m recalled, retired, and shredded into thousands of tiny pieces. I’d like to have time to recover from all this wear and tear so that I can keep on circulating until I’m in no condition to continue. Will you consider my request?

Sincerely,

William P. Dollar

Vandervanter, Nancy, Strategies for Reading Comprehension

**RAFT**

**Roles/Audiences**

ad agencies ecologists principals historical figures

athletes editors politicians TV characters

cartoonist historians movie stars poets

characters in homesteaders older/younger students employees

stories/novels lawyers radio announcer business owners

animals

**Format**

advertisement editorial news story riddle

apology epitaph obituary sermon

application eulogy pamphlet ship’s log

cartoon graffiti petition slide show script

bumper sticker interview photo essay slogan

commercial invitation poetry telegram

complaint joke poster travelogue

confession journal or diary radio play TV script

conversations legal brief recommendation video

and dialogues letter to the editor resume wanted poster

dramatic marriage proposal review warning

monologue will

**Verbs**

admonish demand grumble resign

accuse deny guide reward

advise disagree harass satirize

apologize discourage honor scare

attack emphasize identify sell

beg evaluate inquire shock

blame encourage interpret tattle

boast entertain justify taunt

clarify excite laud teach

complain excuse notify tease

condemn explain pacify testify

confide flatter proclaim urge

congratulate flaunt pester warn

convince forbid plead welcome

dazzle foretell prod woo

defend formulate protest yield