

R-A-F-T-S strategy

R-A-F-T-S is a framework designed to help you improve your writing. It is used to remind you while you are writing to think of five features which good writers take into account: the writer's role; the audience you write for; the format you are using; the topic you are dealing with; and the overall tone or purpose.

The R-A-F-T-S assignment asks you to select:

- R** - a **role** from which to do the writing. The role may be as intimate as your self or as remote as that of an inanimate object.
- A** - an **audience** for whom the writing is intended. You should learn to write for audiences other than the teacher. The audience for writing may range from self to one's pets or peers or the general public. Variation in audience provides for variation in the form and level of language used.
- F** - a **format** in which to write. You should learn to write using a variety of formats. Writing formats can range from e-mail to formal essays.
- T** - a **topic** about which to write. Topics need to relate to the role and the audience selected or assigned.
- S** - a **strong verb** which sets the tone or overall purpose of the writing. The strong verb should guide you in selecting vocabulary to use in your writing.

The following structure is used to generate a R-A-F-T-S assignment:

As a **role** write a **format** to an **audience**
using a **strong verb** about **topic**

Here are some samples:

As a **crew member** write a **letter** to **your family**
complaining about **conditions on board Cartier's ship.**

As a **Viking** write a **postcard** to your **brother or sister**
in Iceland **encouraging** him/her **to join you in Vinland.**

As an **explorer** write an **advertisement** to the **general public**
persuading them to **sign up as crew members for your voyage of discovery.**