

Using the RAFT Writing Strategy for Reviewing Concepts in General and AP Physics High School Classes

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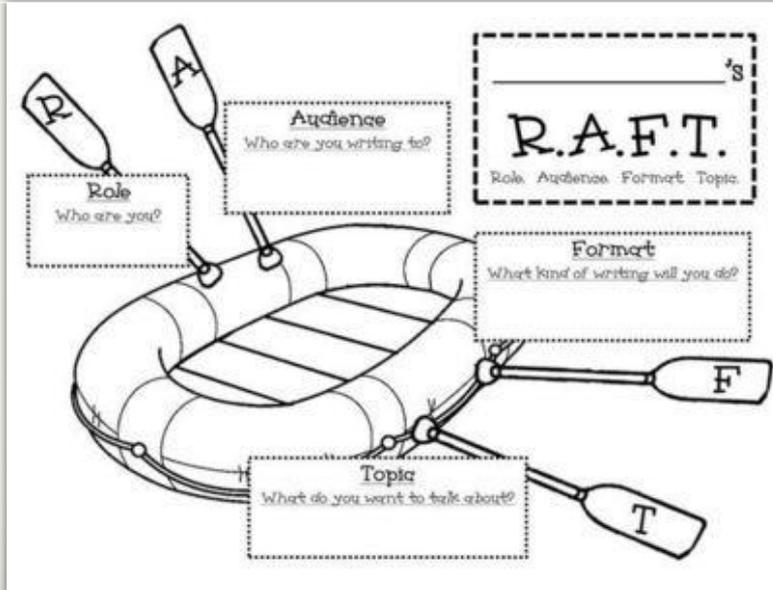
AP Physics redesign shift

Short
answer

to

Paragraph
length
answer

RAFT is a writing strategy that helps students express their understanding of physics concepts in the written form that encourages creativity and individuality.



Rozzelle, J. and Scearce, C., ***Power Tools for Adolescent Literacy***, Solution Tree Press, 2009, pg 157.

RAFT Writing Template

R - Role
A - Audience
F - Format
T - Topic

Type name(s)

Role	Audience
Format	Topic
Writing Assignment	

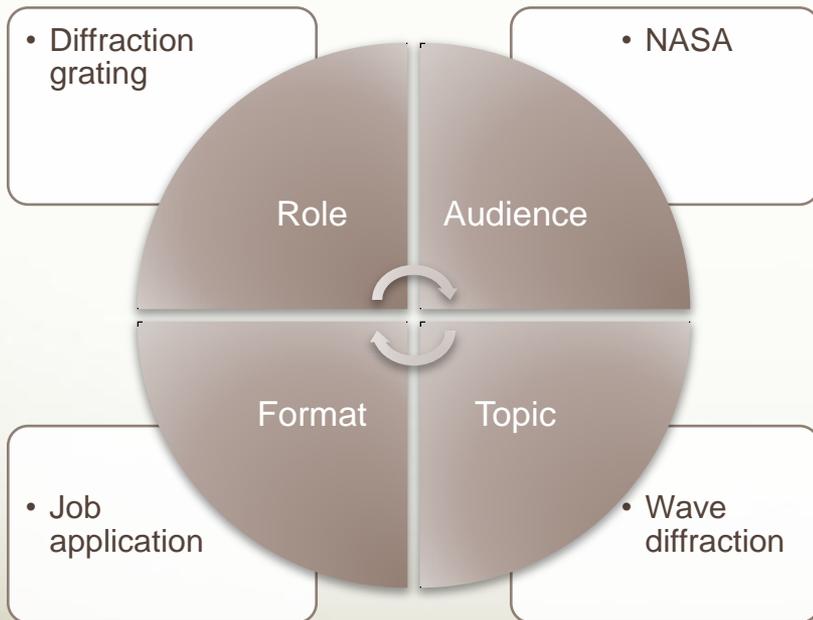
<http://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/raft>

Difference between AP and general physics class

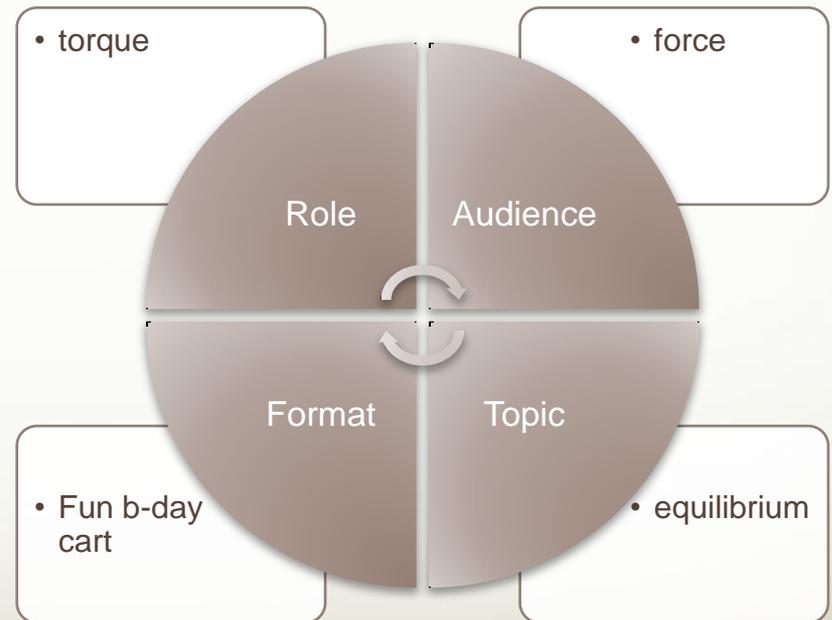
AP Physics	General Physics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ More complex topic<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Energy production▪ Wave diffraction◆ Evaluated for coherency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Simpler topics<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Simple machines▪ Torque vs. Force◆ Additional scaffolding<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Vocabulary list▪ Peer review

Examples of RAFT assignments used in class

AP Physics



General Physics



Samples of student work

- AP

To whom it may concern,

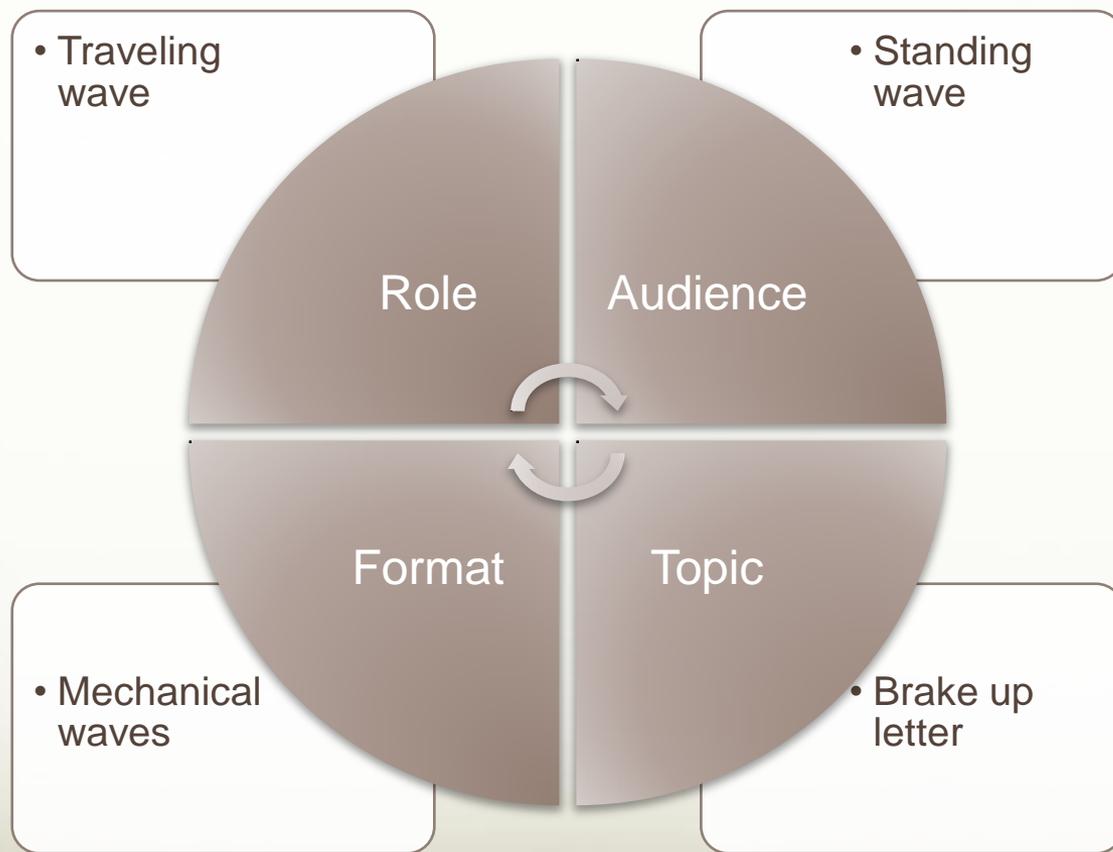
My name is Sunny Beam, and I am applying to be diffraction grating at NASA. As a diffraction grating I have the ability to use my multitude of silts to diffract light incident upon me....

I am diffraction grating. I want to be employed at NASA. I should be hired because as a diffraction gradient i'm very versatile. I have ability to expend my aperture with larger wavelengths and I can sink my apperrure too....

- General

- We both make things move...but I keep things spinning!
- I know it is your b-day and all but don't get ahead of yourself... I can stil turn things around!
- I could never be myself without you.
- Force I know that you are jealous that I got that extra something. From Torque
- (With scaffolding)Happy birthday little guy. Its almost like Newton discovered you yesterday! Remember when he maid his first law around you? I sure do. Its bad though he never gave you things like pivot point or a lever arms..

Example of RAFT assignments used in both AP and General Physics class



Samples of student work

- AP

Dear Stan,

I did not want it to end like this but we are not seeing crest to crest. It seam as if we are being in a long distance relationship because our wavelength is incredibly to long. You just don't get me! I like to travel from ear to ear and you just stay there. Seriously, Stan, you need to get loose and stop being such a fixed end. You are so clingy to nodes but will never try antinodes first. Have some fun Stan! Well buy!

See ya,

Travella

- General

Dear Standing wave,

This is traveling wave, writing to you on a sad tone. Our waves cannt work together because we are so different. You do the same thing in the same place again and again. I need to move and transition into new medium. We just can't work. Perhaps over time you will understand the distance between us that pushed me away.

I'm sorry.

A friend,

Traveling wave

In conclusion.....

RAFT was found to be useful tool to

- Review physics concepts
- Allow for practice in paragraph writing

While in the same time being fun for students and teacher.

Thank you!

Any Questions?