

R.A.F.T.

These lessons vary student choices in **R**ole, **A**udience, and **F**ormat for a writing piece on a **T**opic related to the Pine Bush. The goal of using the RAFT technique is to enhance student writing and environmental awareness.

These lessons are based on the article: Groenke, S and R. Puckett. "Becoming Environmentally Literate Citizens." The Science Teacher, November, 2006.

The RAFT technique is from: Santa, C. 1988. Content reading including study systems. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing.

Wide Open Raft- Students are given a wide choice in Role, Audience and Format to write a creative non-fiction piece about the Pine Bush

Pamphlets- Students will be creating pamphlets for the Pine Bush Commission that could be used at their Discovery Center. (R-Role=Pine Bush Commission Education Specialist, A-Audience = Community/children, F-Format = pamphlet)

Feature Articles-Students will be writing articles about the Pine Bush that could be published in a specific type magazine. (R-Role=Magazine contributing writer, A-Audience = Specific to magazine choice, F-Format = feature article)

Editorials-Students will be writing an editorial about an issue dealing with the Albany Pine Bush. (A-Audience = Community, F-Format = editorial)

Length of lessons: Two or three 40 minute classes

Lesson Goals:

- Students will combine an understanding of their role as a writer, their audience, and format in order to address an environmental topic.
- To foster thoughtful, skillful and active students in a democracy who can make informed environmental decisions that consider future generations (NAAEE)

Lesson Objectives: SWBAT

- Articulate a position on an environmental issue (NAEEE, Strand 3.2A.1.)
- Identify appropriate format for sharing information with intended audience and comply with the accepted features of that format (NYS,S1 Writing)
- Write with voice to address various purposes, topics and audiences across the curriculum (NYS, Literacy Competencies)

Background Information:

Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission <http://www.albanypinebush.org/main.htm>

Topic information

Save the Pine Bush <http://www.savethepinebush.org/>

Grass roots organization for topic information, controversy

RAFT Writing Strategy <http://web.grps.k12.mi.us/academics/5E/raft.html>

Provides examples of RAFT for middle and high school in various subjects

Come aboard a RAFT! www.geocities.com/writingprocess/rafts.htm

A technology-enhanced interactive RAFT format.

RAFT www.somers.K12.ny.us/intranet/reading/RAFT.html

Provides an example

Strategies for Reading Comprehension

<http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/go/readquest/strat/raft.html>

Provides a blank RAFT form for download

Instructional Strategies Online <http://olc.spsd.sk.ca/DE/PD/instr/strats/raft>

Provides a generic rubric

North American Association of Environmental Education (NAEEE). 2006. Excellence in education guidelines. Guidelines for 12th grade. <http://naeee.org/npeee/learnerguidelines/12th.pff>