

RAFT TASK—CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED

RAFT Activities

Explanation: RAFT is an acronym for Role, Audience, Format, and Topic. In a RAFT, students take on a particular role, develop a product for a specified audience in a particular format and on a topic that gets right at the heart of what matters most in a particular segment of study. At some points, a teacher may want to assign students particular RAFTs and at other points may want the student to make the choice. RAFT assignments are typical of fairly short duration and can be completed at school or at home. RAFTs offer teachers great flexibility to plan for student readiness, interest, and learning profile.

For more information: Billmeyer, R. and Barton, M. (1998). *Teaching reading in the content areas, If not me then who?* Aurora, CO: McREL.

RAFT Example

This RAFT is designed to be used by students in a science as they are developing the basic understanding of how humans impact the Chesapeake Bay.

RAFT Goals

Students should know:

Human activities can help or harm the Chesapeake Bay.

Students should understand:

The perspectives of people that live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed vary.

Students should be able to:

Collect, organize and communicate scientific information.

Examining a Real Problem RAFT

Directions: First, select a role from the list on the chart paper. Next, read the article that represents your role.

Use the last page to write down information you learn about your role. Then, select one of the following options to help you organize your knowledge. When you finish your work, we'll do two more things. First, you'll have a 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 other points of view.

Role	Audience	Format	Topic
Ordinary Citizen	Your Family	Letter	How the members of your family can help the Bay
Land Developer	Immediate Community	Newspaper Article	How your company will use Bay friendly construction practices when constructing a new housing development in
Recreational Boater	Other Boaters	Pamphlet	How boaters can Help the Bay
Waterman	Recreational Fisherman	Poster	Why recreational fisherman should be concerned about
Dairy Farmer	Dairy Farm Community	Flyer	How their practices are impacting the quality of the
Ordinary Citizen	Land Developer	Speech for Community Hearing	Why the Land Developers need to use Bay Friendly practices in your Bay friendly community (you will need to read the ordinary citizens and land developer articles to
Fill in your choice here. Check with The teacher for approval.			

Please write each of your facts below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____