

# THE ART & HEART OF TEACHING

Presented by Debbie Silver  
ASDSA 2008



## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1-Credit (\$100 stipends will be processed by Middle Level Education after all requirements have been completed)

For an "A" Grade:

- ❑ Full-day attendance and participation in activities on both May 28-29
- ❑ Attendance at keynote speaker on May 28 from 8am-9am
- ❑ Sum It Up! Assignment (summary paragraph of keynote speech)

[www.asdk12.org/MiddleLink/HighFive/SumItUp/SumItUp\\_StuWrksht.pdf](http://www.asdk12.org/MiddleLink/HighFive/SumItUp/SumItUp_StuWrksht.pdf)

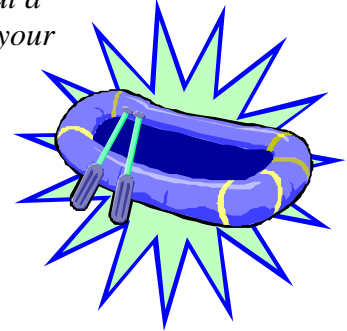
- ❑ RAFTS Assignment (see attachment)
- ❑ Reflection paper (1-2 pages)

Due Date:

- ✓ Email written assignments in Word attachments to Amy Goodman (267-0221) by **June 13**
- ✓ You will receive an automated reply acknowledging receipt of your assignments
- ✓ A more personal and reflective follow-up email response will be sent a later date

## R.A.F.T.S. Assignment

*A R.A.F.T.S. writing prompt challenges a writer to assume a Role before writing, to write for an Audience, to write using a given Format, to write about a certain Topic, and to write with certain Strong Verbs in mind. Let your imagination float away as you navigate the writing process!*



### Step 1: Select a Role

(Who or what will I be? What role can I play?)

- Counselor
- Administrator
- Core teacher
- PE teacher
- Elective teacher
- Student
- Parent
- School Board Member
- Executive Director of Middle Schools
- Other

### Step 2: Select an Audience

(Who will be my audience? To whom or for whom am I writing?)

- New-to-middle school parent
- Concerned parent
- Colleague
- School Board Member(s)
- PTSA
- High school teacher/counselor
- Administrator
- State/local government official
- Other

### Step 3: Select a Format

(What kind of writing will I do? What format will I use?)

... letter, email, essay, memo, editorial, song, dialogue, speech, picture book, proposal, news article, poem, ode, rap, play, Open House brochure, poster, etc.

### Step 4: Select a Topic

(What do I feel informed about?)

- Effective Discipline Strategies for Young Adolescents
- Stress Management Ideas for Overworked Middle School Staff
- Tips and Tricks for Improved Classroom Management

- ❑ Cooperative Learning Strategies for Active Student Engagement
- ❑ Extrinsic vs. Intrinsic Motivation
- ❑ How to Work Smarter and Not Harder
- ❑ Proactive Measures to Limit Disruptive Behavior
- ❑ Other

**Step 5: Select Strong Verbs**

(What’s the purpose of my writing? What do I want my reader to do or feel?)

... acknowledge, explain, persuade, tempt, guide, endorse, inspire, etc.

**Examples:**

What does this look like from a writer’s point of view? Here are two examples. Please remember this is only the prewriting. You are asked to turn each of your RAFT mini-assignments into complete pieces of writing.

Health class:

Role = dentist  
 Audience = patients  
 Format = flyer  
 Topic = My flyer will advertise the importance of flossing.  
 Strong Verbs = encourage, warn

Science class:

Role = fish  
 Audience = Mayor  
 Format = complaint email  
 Topic = My complaint letter will discuss the effects on the river from building a new subdivision,  
 Strong Verbs = forewarn, condemn