Dissecting Writing Prompts Using R.A.F.T.S
R – Role
A – Audience
F – Format
T – Topic
S – Strong Verb
Step 1

Read the prompt two or three times
The cafeteria manager would like input about foods to add to the cafeteria menu; write a persuasive letter to her about your three favorite foods, and explain why she should include them as choices.
Step 2

Dissect the prompt
Prompt: The cafeteria serves some foods people like and some they don’t like. Think about three different foods that you would like the cafeteria manager to serve that you can’t get now. Write a persuasive letter to the cafeteria manager convincing her to serve each of the three new foods you are suggesting.

Identify the role of the writer.

Am I writing as myself?

Must I assume a different role?

Role: you
Prompt:
The cafeteria serves some foods people like and some they don’t like. Think about three different foods that you would like the cafeteria manager to serve that you can’t get now. Write a persuasive letter to the cafeteria manager convincing her to serve each of the three new foods you are suggesting.

Identify your audience. Who will be reading your story?

What do you notice about this prompt?

Audience: cafeteria manager
Prompt:
The cafeteria serves some foods people like and some they don’t like. Think about three different foods that you would like the cafeteria manager to serve that you can’t get now. Write a persuasive letter to the cafeteria manager convincing her to serve each of the three new foods you are suggesting.

What **format** will you use? Format means the type of writing you’ll use. Is it an essay? Is it a poem?

**Format:**

**persuasive letter**
Prompt:
The cafeteria serves some foods people like and some they don’t like. Think about three different foods that you would like the cafeteria manager to serve that you can’t get now. Write a persuasive letter to the cafeteria manager convincing her to serve each of the three new foods you are suggesting.

What is the topic of your story?

**Topic**: adding your three favorite foods to the menu
Prompt: The cafeteria serves some foods people like and some they don’t like. Think about three different foods that you would like the cafeteria manager to serve that you can’t get now. Write a persuasive letter to the cafeteria manager convincing her to serve each of the three new foods you are suggesting.

What is a strong verb for this prompt? Why are you writing this story? What is your purpose? HINT: There is more than one right answer!

Strong verb(s): write, persuade, convince
* **Role** - You

* **Audience** - cafeteria manager

* **Format** - persuasive letter

* **Topic** - adding your three favorite foods to the menu

* **Strong verb** - convince, persuade, write
The **cafeteria manager** would like **audience** input about foods to add to the cafeteria menu; write a **persuasive format** **letter** to her about **your three role favorite foods,** and **convince** her to **topic strong verb** include them.
Step 3

Combine all the information from RAFTS into paragraph form to clarify the task in your own words.
I need to write a persuasive letter that convinces the cafeteria manager to add my three favorite foods to the menu.
Step 4

Go back to the rewritten prompt paragraph and check and label each component of the R.A.F.T.S.

Make sure you include components that you had to generate on your own.
I need to write a persuasive letter that convinces the cafeteria manager to add my three favorite foods to the menu.”
You try it!
Imagine you are an endangered flying squirrel living in the forest that is about to be leveled to make way for a shopping center. Write a letter to the construction company president persuading him to find someplace else to build and leave your forest alone.
What will you do first?

Read the prompt *more than once*.

What will you do next?

Dissect the prompt!
Imagine you are an endangered flying squirrel living in the forest that is about to be leveled to make way for a shopping center. Write a letter to the construction company president persuading him to find someplace else to build and leave your forest alone.

What is your Role?

**Role:** flying squirrel
Imagine you are an endangered flying squirrel living in the forest that is about to be leveled to make way for a shopping center. Write a letter to the construction company president persuading him to find someplace else to build and leave your forest alone.

Who is your audience or are you writing to?

Audience: construction company president
Imagine you are an endangered flying squirrel living in the forest that is about to be leveled to make way for a shopping center. Write a letter to the construction company president persuading him to find someplace else to build and leave your forest alone.

What type of genre or format are you writing?

**Format: persuasive letter**
Imagine you are an endangered flying squirrel living in the forest that is about to be leveled to make way for a shopping center. Write a letter to the construction company president persuading him to find someplace else to build and leave your forest alone.

What topic are you writing about?

**Topic:** Find somewhere else to build the shopping center and leave the forest alone
Imagine you are an endangered flying squirrel living in the forest that is about to be leveled to make way for a shopping center. Write a letter to the construction company president persuading him to find someplace else to build and leave your forest alone.

What actions are you taking as a writer?

**Strong verb(s): write, persuade**
Put it all together!

Role: flying squirrel

Audience: construction company president

Format: persuasive letter

Topic: find another place to build the shopping center away from my forest

Strong verb: persuade, write
Imagine you are an endangered flying squirrel (R) living in the forest that is about to be leveled to make way for a shopping center.

Write(S) a letter(F) to the construction company president (A) persuading (S) him to find someplace else to build and leave your forest alone. (T)