Differentiate by Interest Tool Kit

Starting Point/pre-assessment sample questions:

These are meant to gauge **students' starting point** and the steps **you will need to take** to get them to the final objective (task analysis).

General

- After reading the purpose of____(today's lesson or this unit), identify 2 goals you have for yourself.
- After reading a list of topics we will cover this unit, which one(s) interest you the most? Why?

ELA and Social Studies

- Read the following excerpt. Draw, list, or write the feelings this excerpt evoked in you. Be prepared to explain your thinking to a partner/the class.
- Think of a time you persuaded someone else to try one of your interests. What techniques did you use to persuade them?
- Read the following examples of figurative language (choose a few related to your upcoming unit). Which figurative language device speaks the most to you? Why?
- Examine the following list of research topics. Pick one. Then, write a question someone might have about that topic.
- When we study…(insert history topic), I hope we learn about…(provide students with a list of 5 topics you'll study and an "other" option).
- If you were to keep a record of life right now, which medium would you use to keep that record? Why?

Science

- *Show students pictures of marine animals, then ask:* Which marine animal would you like to know more about? Why?
- What is your current experience with… (unit or daily topic)?
- Consider what you currently eat. Which food(s) provide(s) you with lasting energy? How might you test that?

Math

- Create a story that demonstrates the following number statement:
  - $9 + (-4) = 5$
- Write or draw the definitions of the following terms (provide ones for the lesson or unit).

RAFT

What is it?

"RAFT is a flexible strategy that can be used to design introductory unit hooks, sense-making activities, Jigsaws, homework tasks, applications and extensions, or summative assessments. The best RAFTS have clear knowledge, understanding, and skill goals, with all activities leading to those same goals. However, sometimes learning goals are not met in full until students have shared their RAFT tasks in the large group or in mixed small groups. This is most often true if students are not completing the RAFT as an individual assessment" (Doubet and Hockett 232).

Role of the writer- helps the writer decide on point of view and voice

Audience for the piece of writing- reminds the writer that he must communicate ideas to someone else; helps writer determine content and style.

Format of the material- helps the writer organize ideas and employ the conventions of format, such as letters, interviews and story problems.

Topic- helps the writer focus on main ideas and writing purpose.

Example: I AM IMPORTANT R.A.F.T.

Directions: You will create a writing piece using the RAFT format. Your piece should be at least one page, written neatly in pencil or pen. We will be peer editing the piece before you leave class today, so that you will have the opportunity to revise your work using the feedback provided by your peers.

- Your **ROLE-** choose one organelle; you will take on the role and write from the perspective of that organelle
- Your **AUDIENCE**- your organelle will be addressing the other organelles in the cell
- Your **FORMAT-** this is a writing piece; however you have several choices as to the voice in your paper; you can write a formal writing piece, a journal/ diary entry, an interview, or song/rap lyrics.
- Your **TASK**- to convince the other organelles why YOU are the most important organelle in the cell.

At the end of the writing time, you will self-evaluate, then trade papers with two other students and have them peer evaluate your work. It is important that you provide feedback to your classmates as well. Your feedback will help them to successfully complete the assignment!

Possible Roles	Possible Audiences	Possible Formats	
• Advertiser • Anthropologist • Architect • Artist/Illustrator • Author • Candidate • Coach • Detective • Economist • Engineer • Filmmaker • Historian • Journalist • Lawyer • Musician • Scientist • Travel agent	• Ad agency • Author • Business • Celebrities • Characters in a book • Community members • Family members • Friends • Government leaders • Historical figures • Judge • Readers	• Announcement • Applications • Advertisement • Bumper sticker • How to Instructions • Consumer Guide or Report • Debate • Email • Eulogies • Text • Memo • Skit • Speech • Slogan	• Song • Ballad • Story board for animation • Table of Contents • Telegram • Time Capsule List • Newspaper Ad • Historical account • Prayers • Letter to editor • Proposal • Resume • Screenplay • Sermon • Test Questions • Wanted Poster

Blank RAFT Planning Template

Title of RAFT			
Learning Goals:		**Purpose (select one):** -Intro/hook -Sense-making activity -In-class task -Assessment	**End goal:** This RAFT will…
Role	**Audience**	**Format**	**Topic**

Reflection and Feedback

1. How does using student interest meet the goals of differentiation? How was your understanding of this question affirmed, challenged, or added to during the training?

2. What strategy did you select to implement in your classroom? Why?

Possible sentence frame for question 2: "I will use _____ for _____. This will help me differentiate using interest because _____."