

Writing for Different Audiences

Each part of this activity requires students to increasingly consider the audiences' needs and how to best meet them in order to complete the task.

Part I

Choose a topic and explain it in writing to three different audiences. Define each audience and be prepared to justify your rationale for particular linguistic choices.

Part II

Come up with a scenario where two of your three audiences indicated in Part I happen to be in the same place, context, or situation. Explain this scenario and what has occurred leading up to the joining of these two audiences. Now you'll need to give a speech about your topic to this new, combined audience. Decide what approaches you'll need to take in order to ensure that you're able to meet the needs of everyone.

Write your speech incorporating the needed linguistic and communicative approaches to make your points as clear as possible and to make you, the speaker, as persuasive as possible.

Part III

Give your speech to a peer to read, explaining who your two audiences are and the scenario leading up to their combination. Your peer will evaluate your choices and offer feedback based on the following questions:

1. Is the purpose of the speech clear? Provide examples to support your reasons.
2. Does the writer/speaker make reasonable linguistic choices? Why or why not?
3. Are there communicative benefits to the writer/speaker's choices? Why or why not?

Take a few minutes to debrief about this process with your peer. Which parts of this assignment came naturally? What was challenging?