

## R.A.F.T. ESSAY FOR ELECTRIC LIGHTING UNIT

We must always consider various aspects of writing before we write including role, audience, format, and topic. R.A.F.T. assignments focus on structuring writing assignments around these four elements:

- R: **Role** or writer – Who are you?  
A: **Audience** – To whom is this written?  
F: **Format** – What kind of form will this take? (journal entry, letter, memo?)  
T: **Topic** – What you will be writing about + a strong verb – Persuade a company to hire you, demand fair treatment, plead for help, etc.

For this assignment, your audience and format will be given but you will have some choices as regards Role and Topic. The R.A.F.T. elements for this assignment are as follows:

- Role:** You are a member of a working class or farming family (mother, father, son, daughter, etc.)  
**Audience:** You are writing to Thomas Edison  
**Format:** The form of this communication will be a letter of 400-500 words  
**Topic:** You will be discussing the impact the electric light has had on your life and your family. This may include boasting of how good life has been since electric lighting or lamenting how terrible life has become since your community adopted electric lights and a demand that Edison withdraw his product from the market.

### Scoring Criteria

- The letter sufficiently and thoroughly addresses the two essential questions of the unit
- The letter provides details based upon information accurately gleaned from the sources to support the writer's assertions about the merits/drawbacks of electric light
- Ideas are developed thoroughly with supporting evidence and argumentation
- Language is precise, expressive, and lively
- Strong control of grammar, mechanics, and conventions