

Name _____

Date _____

Writing for the Topic and the Audience

To write effectively, it's important to consider your audience. The words you choose and your level of formality should match the people who will read your work. Writing for friends is usually more casual and conversational, while writing for teachers or newspapers is more formal and precise.

Strategies for matching audience:

1. Identify who will read your writing.
2. Decide whether your tone should be formal or informal.
3. Choose words that your audience will understand and appreciate.

Read each paragraph. Rewrite it so it fits the given audience.

1. Original Paragraph (Audience: friends)

Lonnie G. Johnson was already famous for his engineering work with government agencies, i.e., the U.S. Air Force and NASA. But he is most famous for inventing a toy. In 1982, Johnson was conducting an experiment in his bathroom on a heat pump that used water instead of a chemical. The experiment resulted in a stream of water squirting across the room and into his bathtub. That is when the famous Super Soaker water gun was born.

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2. Original Paragraph (Audience: teacher)

I am totally freaked out about the low grade I got on the last test. I really thought I'd nailed it! I studied until my brain was mush.

There's gotta be something I can do to bring it up, e.g., an extra report or speech or something.

3. Original Paragraph (Audience: readers of a newspaper)

So there's this super hard puzzle called Kryptos at the CIA headquarters that no one's been able to figure out. And they've been trying for over 20 years! You'd think those super smart secret agents would have figured it out by now.

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Writing for the Topic and the Audience – Answer Key

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1. Original Paragraph (Audience: friends)

Lonnie G. Johnson was already famous for his engineering work with government agencies, i.e., the U.S. Air Force and NASA. But he is most famous for inventing a toy. In 1982, Johnson was conducting an experiment in his bathroom on a heat pump that used water instead of a chemical. The experiment resulted in a stream of water squirting across the room and into his bathtub. That is when the famous Super Soaker water gun was born.

Guess what? Lonnie G. Johnson, the guy who worked with NASA and the Air Force, accidentally invented the Super Soaker! Back in 1982, he was messing around with a water experiment in his bathroom, and water went flying everywhere—including into the bathtub. That's how the famous water gun came to life. Crazy, right?

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Writing for the Topic and the Audience – Answer Key**2. Original Paragraph (Audience: teacher)**

I am totally freaked out about the low grade I got on the last test. I really thought I'd nailed it! I studied until my brain was mush. There's gotta be something I can do to bring it up, e.g., an extra report or speech or something.

I am concerned about the low grade I received on the recent test. I studied extensively but did not perform as expected. Is there an opportunity for me to improve my grade, perhaps through an additional report or presentation? I would appreciate any suggestions you might have.

3. Original Paragraph (Audience: readers of a newspaper)

So there's this super hard puzzle called Kryptos at the CIA headquarters that no one's been able to figure out. And they've been trying for over 20 years! You'd think those super smart secret agents would have figured it out by now.

At CIA headquarters, there is a challenging puzzle called Kryptos that has remained unsolved for over 20 years. Despite the efforts of highly trained intelligence agents, the code has yet to be cracked. The mystery continues to intrigue cryptography enthusiasts and the public alike.