

LESSON 10

AUDIENCE



Lesson

As with speaking, when writing we must choose the content and tone with our audience in mind. You wouldn't talk to your teacher the same way you talk to your friends. You probably wouldn't talk about the same things, either.

Picture this example: Rita is 12 years old and in the sixth grade. On Sunday she went to the mall with her friends. When she returned home she called her best friend, Maria, who was sick at home. Here is what she said about going to the mall.

“Oh my gosh, Maria, I saw the coolest hair clips with these butterflies on them and an awesome bracelet with hearts and butterflies and rainbows and unicorns. And oh my gosh, you’ll never believe what Kimi told me...”

The next day at school, Rita's teacher Mr. Jackson asked the class to write a paragraph about something interesting they did over the weekend. Here is Rita's paragraph.

This weekend I went to the mall with my freinds. We looked at jewelry, clothes, and hairclips. Later, we each bought a slurpee and talked about music and movies. At 5:00 p.m. my Dad picked us up and drove us home. When I got home, I called my friend Maria who was sick at home. I told her all about the mall so she wouldn't feel left out.

Rita took one event and told it two different ways. Her tone was very excited when she spoke to Maria, but it was very factual when she wrote her paragraph for Mr. Jackson. Rita considered her audience before retelling her story.



Activity One

Read each item and answer carefully.

1. Your teacher tells you to write about the cheetah. After you finish your essay you will be reading it to a class of first graders.
 - A. Who is your audience?
 - B. X out the words you would not use in your essay.

| | | |
|---------|-------------|--------|
| cat | sub-saharan | hunter |
| spotted | quick | pounce |
| species | agile | cub |
 - C. How long should it take to read your essay to the class?

| | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| 30 seconds | 5-7 minutes | 30 minutes |
|------------|-------------|------------|

Why?
 - D. Put a star next to the topics that would be appropriate for a class of first graders.Explain your answers.

Why the cheetah is so fast.

What the cheetah looks like.

How cheetahs hunt and devour their prey.

Shanta: The cheetah that saved a little girl's life.