

Westward Expansion: RAFT Organizer

Create a character who has been affected by westward expansion. Write a text in the voice of your character. Use what you have learned from the map, artworks, primary sources, and other texts in this lesson to realistically portray how westward expansion has changed your character's life. Before you write, choose a role, audience, format, and topic (RAFT) for your writing:

- **R – Role of the writer:** Who are you as the writer? Satanta? An Exoduster? A child?
- **A – Audience:** To whom are you writing? A friend or family member? The readers of a newspaper?
- **F – Format:** In what format are you writing? A letter? An article? A list of FAQs?
- **T – Topic:** What are you writing about? A conflict or challenge that you experienced? An opinion or words of advice?

Some suggestions are listed on the chart below. Brainstorm your own ideas in the bottom row of the chart. Then use the Westward Expansion: RAFT Writing Planner to continue planning your writing.

Role	Audience	Format	Topic
Andrew Jackson Grayson	readers of a national newspaper	letter to the editor	the challenges and benefits of moving west to California
Satanta, Chief of the Kiowa	children	poem	how life is changing
an Exoduster in Nicodemus, Kansas	people who are thinking about moving to Kansas	FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)	questions and answers about life in Kansas
a child on a wagon train to California	a friend in the East	personal letter	a description of the family's trip west on a wagon train
newspaper reporter	readers of the newspaper	news article	an encounter between settlers and Native Americans
My Ideas			
Role:	Audience:	Format:	Topic: