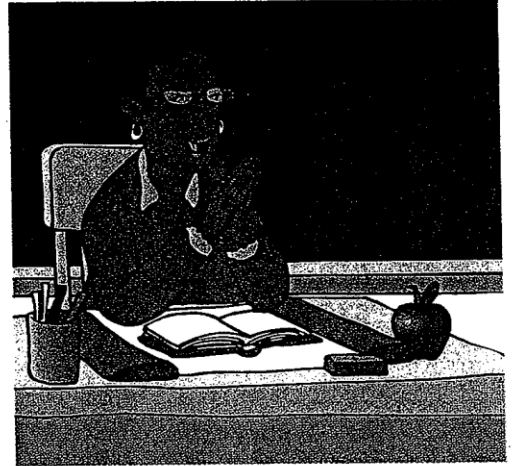


Lesson 4 Audience

When Mrs. Prescott writes a worksheet for her first-grade students, does she use long sentences and complicated words? No. She uses words and sentences that are appropriate for her students; they are her audience. If Mrs. Prescott does not keep her audience in mind, they will not understand. In this case, they will not learn.

When Mrs. Prescott writes a letter to her students' parents, does she use the same short words and sentences that she uses with her students? Surely not. The parents are adults; they can understand more complicated words and sentences than her students can. If Mrs. Prescott were to use first-grade language for the parents, they would lose interest. Writers need to keep their audience in mind at all times.



Writers need to consider these questions every time they write:

- What will my audience enjoy?
- What are they interested in?
- What will make them want to keep on reading?
- What do they already know?
- What will they understand?

Here is a note that Mrs. Prescott wrote for her students' parents. Did she keep her audience in mind?

Dear Parents,

On Thursday, April 11th, our class will visit the Children's Museum. The museum has rooms where the children can learn about clocks, water, fossils, and racecars. We are looking forward to a very exciting day.

Did she keep her audience in mind? How can you tell?

Lesson 4 Audience

Put yourself in Mrs. Prescott's place and think about the five questions on page 10. What else should Mrs. Prescott have told the parents? Ask yourself: What would parents want or need to know about a field trip that their 6-year-old child is taking? Make up additional details, if you need to.

Now, write an information sheet for Mrs. Prescott's students to help them prepare for the field trip to the Children's Museum. Include at least one sentence about each of the four "rooms" and what children might see or learn there. Make up details as needed. Remember to ask yourself the five questions on page 10 before you write.
