Writing in Science
What kind of writing do scientists do?
Judi’s list

- Routinized reporting:
  - Lab reports, EIRs, etc.
- Synthesizing and critiquing other people’s ideas:
  - Literature reviews, Review articles, Comments & Replies
- Presenting new frameworks for thinking about ideas
  - Research articles
- Working out ideas in writing:
  - Lab or field notebooks, emails
- Summarizing group thinking:
  - Reports from working groups
- Reports for the general public and policy recommendations for lawmakers
- Popular media: books, magazines, blogs, websites
What do we typically have kids write in science?
Providing students with opportunities for more varied writing

- **Writing-to-learn**
  - Working out ideas in writing
  - Practicing with ideas

- **Can be embedded in activities**
  - Preassessments
  - Quick writes
  - Formative assessments

- **Can be varied in format**
  - Interactive science notebooks
  - Handouts with specific prompts
  - Letters to a friendly audience (parent, friend, sibling, study buddy from another grade level)
  - Communication to someone else in class
Let’s try some examples
Now let’s try designing your own

- Choose one of our formats:
  - Challenge Statement
  - Odd One Out
  - Agree & Disagree
  - Letter to a friendly audience

- Think about a piece of your curriculum that generates student confusion. Design a write-to-learn exercise that helps sort out that confusion.
Think beyond the lab report.
Have kids take a stance
- Based on a science experience or observation
- Based on text
Use the Communication Triangle to vary the Author’s role, the Audience, and the Format
Let’s try designing one

bullet You must designate:
  ◦ What is the Author’s role? This helps define the area of expertise and the kind of rhetoric to be used.
  ◦ What is the Audience’s need? This helps the writer know what kind of information or arguments should be included.
  ◦ What is the Format? This helps define the proper structure and register (tone, word choice, emotional content) of the product.
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