**Developing a Writing Performance Task**

**What is a Performance Task?**

A performance task is a complex scenario that provides students an opportunity to demonstrate what they know and are able to do concerning a given concept. The components of the framework for the performance task are outlines in the acronym GRASPS. The **goal** states the purpose of the task; the **role** explains student involvement in the scenario; the **audience** identifies the people the students address; the **situation** explains the scenario; the **product** is the tangible evidence of student understanding; and the **standards/criteria** describe how students can complete the task successfully.

**GRASPS:**

**GOAL:**Provide a statement of the task.  
Establish the goal, problem, challenge, or obstacle in the task.

**ROLE:**  
Define the role of the students in the task.  
State the job of the students for the task.

**AUDIENCE:**Identify the target audience within the context of the scenario.

**SITUATION:**Set the context of the scenario.  
Explain the situation.

**PRODUCT:**Clarify what the students will create and why they will create it.

**STANDARDS and CRITERIA [INDICATORS]:**Provide students with a clear picture of success.  
Identify specific standards and specific criteria for success.  
Issue rubrics to the students or develop them with the students.

**GRASPS (teacher)**

**Goal:**Provide a statement of the writing task. (Include a specific format if appropriate)  
Establish the goal of the task.

**Role:**  
Define the role of the writer in the task.

**Audience:**Identify the target audience for the writing.

**Situation:**Set the context of the scenario that will develop the writing.

**Product:**Clarify what the students will create and why they will create it. Which format will be used to meet the expectations at your grade level?

**Standards and Criteria:**Provide students with a clear picture of success. Samples of students work is helpful so they have a target to help them meet the criteria.  
Identify specific standards/criteria for success.  
Issue rubrics to the students or develop them with the students.