

A Topic Worth Ranting About

Outcomes:

1.3: Express clearly and with conviction, a personal point of view, and be able to support that position

1.4: Listen attentively to grasp the essential elements of a message, and recognize and consider supporting details

2.2: Recognize that different purposes and audiences influence communication choices such as vocabulary, sentence structure, rate of speech, and tone during talk; consider appropriate communication choices in various speaking contexts

3.4: Recognize that different situations (interviews, speeches, debates, conversation) require different speaking and listening conventions (questioning techniques, persuasive talk, formal language) appropriate to the situation

9.5: Ask for reader feedback while writing and use this feedback when shaping subsequent drafts; consider self-generated drafts from a reader's/viewer's/listener's point of view

Directions: Collectively, as a class, we are going to watch Rick Mercer's rant, "*Snow Days*," on his YouTube channel. After we watch that rant, we are also going to view "*Bullying*," "*Rob Ford*," and "*Seasonal Amnesia*." You must complete the attached graphic organizer about 1 of his rants.

For this assignment, you will **write** a Rick Mercer style rant. A rant:

- Introduces a problem/concern in the community/school/country
- Explains what the problem/concern is and why it's worth ranting about
- Offers up one or more solutions to the problem
- Is between 1 and 2 minutes in length

You must write at least **2 drafts (rough/final)** of your rant with a **peer conference** between drafts. It can be hand written or typed.

You should **memorize** your rant. Memorization will make the rant easier to record and much more effective overall. You must **practice** your rant. The delivery of the rant is as important as the writing.

You must **record** your rant to show to the class. You may use your own recording device (phone, iPod, iPad, laptop) or one of the school's pieces of technology. You can publish your rant using Tellagami, iMovie, Garage Band or any platform you want to experiment with or feel comfortable using.

Your rant must be played for the class.

The Five Most Important Things to Include in Your Rant

- A **singular topic** worth ranting about
- Why it matters (Remember our “So What” rule and review)
- Facts/Supporting details
- Solution(s) to the Problem
- Strong, memorable conclusion

Seasonal Amnesia by Rick Mercer

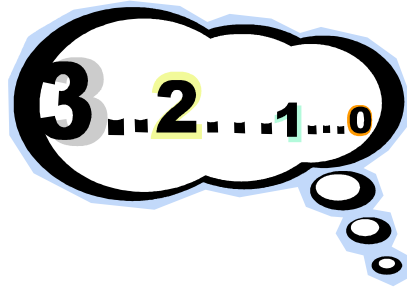
I have come to the conclusion that when it comes to winter, Canadians, at least those of us that live in the cities, suffer from a seasonal amnesia. When it snows or gets cold, or when the rain turns to ice and it gets slippery, it comes as a complete and total shock. We like to think we're good at winter but we're not anymore. And it seems like every year we're all getting worse.

I did an informal poll, and it turns out that I know people that live in this country, in this city, where today it is 27 below, who don't own a single pair of long underwear. Whereas my grandfather, his generation, he wore long underwear every day for six months straight, so he probably had two pairs.

And I'm just as bad. I was away from Toronto over the holidays when the power went out. And after three days I was worried my pipes might freeze. And my father, he looked at me with total confusion and said, “It's the winter, why didn't you drain your pipes before you left?” And I'm like, “I didn't drain my pipes before I left because I don't live in the dark ages.” Not a very good come back when the city you live in has no power. And it's not like I don't know any better. I mean I have lived through half a dozen ice storms. I know what to expect and yet I was completely unprepared. It's not climate change I'm worried about, it's memory change.

So next time I leave, I will be prepared. The pipes will be drained, the long johns will be packed and I don't want to cause panic but one of these days I might get myself a box of emergency candles. So let's say it together people. This is not new, it's not a polar vortex, it happens every year. It's called winter.

Rick Mercer: A Topic Worth Ranting About



3 important ideas that I want to remember from Rick's rant:

2 things I would like to know more about from Rick's rant:

1 question I want to think about from Rick's rant:
