

# the radical write

## teacher's manual

chapter 5  
assignment | 3

### Searching for a unique angle

Read the story  
provided here.  
Explain how  
you might  
make it more  
interesting, more  
timely, more  
newsworthy?

Seaweed High School's percussion ensemble will play a concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 24, at the SHS theater.

Last spring, the talented group played a similar concert to a full house, and SHS band director Steve Jacobs expects the show to once again sell out.

"People say they've been blown away by what they hear," Jacobs said. "They didn't know percussion could do this."

The 15-member ensemble recently placed fourth at the State Solo and Ensemble Competition. Last year, they placed eighth.

Jacobs said those who come to the concert, which is also a fundraiser for the band program, are in for a treat. The entire stage will be filled with various percussion instruments, from bongos and bass drums to xylophones and marimbas.

Even everyday objects will become instruments, as the group incorporates items such as a garden weasel into their music.

"Anything becomes a percussion instrument when you get into percussion ensemble," Jacobs said.

Small groups, individuals and the entire cast of percussionists will play a wide range of music, he said, from avant-garde 20th Century pieces to modern pop tunes.

"There are so many sounds and colors and different styles of things," he said.

The concert will also be bittersweet, said Jacobs, as it will be the percussion ensemble's last performance ever. The program is one of several extracurricular classes in the district being cut next year due to the school district's \$850,000 budget shortfall.

Jacobs said that although the program has only existed for three years, many are sad to see it go.

"Not only is this a special group of kids," he said, "but the fact that we're able to have this separate class where we really get to focus on percussion and get to do a lot of other literature we would not be able to do in a regular band class. It's hard to see this going away."