

**Figure 3** Team #3 RAFTS

Role	An Owl Pellet
Audience	A Mouse
Format	An Advice Column
Topic	The Beauty of a Balanced Life
Strong Verb	Plea

Dear Mousekin, Kindred Spirit:

PLEASE don't go out at night. Don't end up like me: victim to a silent, nocturnal killer. You might think you're safe, but at any time you could be caught in the clutches of a great horned owl, Eastern screech owl, or even a barred owl. You think you're hiding, but your enemy can see 270 degrees. At dusk you may hear the hoot, cuckoo (pronounced *coo coo*), or trill of an owl. Think of it as a warning to stay inside; it's time for bed. If you get caught in the trance of the silvery moon, you'll almost certainly end up like me: caught in the sharp talons, swallowed whole, and regurgitated 21 hours later. All that will be left are your desiccated bones. That's no way to live a life. Instead, enjoy family and friends. Enjoy the light of day. For us, the beauty of a balanced life is how we live, not the hours we enjoy outdoors.

(Note: We discussed having Mousekin write a Dear Abby/ Dear Bones advice column letter. Mousekin could be saying something like, "Dear Bones: My mean old mom won't let me out at night. What can I do to get some fresh air and moonlight?" or something similar, to make the response more obviously an advice column, but time ran out.)