

Step by Step Instructions

Cross-Curricular Focus: Science Investigations



Many schools have science fairs. Students show their science projects. These projects show the results of experiments.

Every project must include certain things. One requirement is to explain how to do the experiment step by step. The instructions should be easy to understand. Anyone should be able to read the instructions and recreate the experiment with the same materials. They should be able to do the exact same steps.

When you write the instructions, list all the things that you used in the experiment. It may seem silly, but you should write down everything. You should even write down the pencil and paper that you used to take notes.

Next, be very clear about what the **steps** are. Give as much detail as possible. **Label** each step with numbers to show the order of the steps. Use words like first, next, then and finally. **Draw** little pictures to show your steps. Make sure to show the special features, or details, of any **objects**. Read over what you have written. Make sure the instructions make sense. Ask a friend to read your instructions. See if they understand what to do. When your instructions are clear, type or write them neatly for your display at the fair.

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What kind of project needs step by step instructions?

2) Why do you have to write down all the materials that you used for your experiment?

3) How should you organize your instructions?

4) What can you do to help the reader understand your instructions?

5) Why is it important to use lots of details in your instructions?
