

Step by Step Instructions

Cross-Curricular Focus: Science Investigations



When you participate in a science fair, one of the things you must do is explain how to do your experiment step by step. Someone who has never heard of your topic before should be able to read your instructions and follow them to do exactly the same things you did, with exactly the same materials.

Start by listing all the things that you used for your experiment. It may seem silly, but you should even write down the pencil and paper that you used to take notes. Remember, someone who wants to repeat your experiment should be able to do exactly what you did.

Next, it is important to 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, or use words like first, next, then, and finally. If a little picture would help someone understand your instructions, **draw** one next to the step it is showing. Make sure to show the special **features**, or details, of any **objects** you are talking about. Read over what you have written when you are done.

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 project may you need to describe using step by step instructions?

2) Why do you have to write down every single object that you used for your experiments? _____

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? _____
