

Name: _____

LEARN A NEW SKILL AND SHARE IT WITH THE WORLD!

At one point in our lives, we've all thought...

"Someday I want to learn how to..."

"Wouldn't it be cool to know how to..."

"I wish I were more creative!"

"HOW DID THEY DO THAT???"

We all have a desire to learn and create. As a class, we are going to put that desire into practice and teach each other as we go.

YOUR CHALLENGE:

- 1) Think of a small skill or project that you want to learn or gain
(Example: I've always wanted to know how to make an omelette)
- 2) Learn that skill by finding the needed materials and creating it yourself
(Example: Look up recipes for omelettes, find the tools/ingredients, make sure your parent/guardian is ok with you cooking, etc)
- 3) Keep track of the steps needed to master that skill along the way (take notes, sketches, photos, video clips, etc)
(Example: jotting down notes and create a sketch/diagram of an important step, have a family member take photos for your presentation while you work)
- 4) After learning and achieving your skill, create clear step-by step instructions for it.

For this assignment, you will be expected to...

- 1) Hand in a final typed copy of your instructions

- 2) Present your skill/instructions to the class in an interesting/visual 3-5 minute presentation

***The skill needs to be done outside of class (cooking at home, making something at home, building an igloo in the snow at the park, etc) and the skill needs to be presented with some kind of media (Photos, slideshow, video, sketches, diagrams posted on bristol board, etc).

***You won't be able to actually cook in front of the class, etc in order to show the skill. Sorry!

Why are we doing this project?

- To have fun experiencing/learning something new
- To practice procedural writing (instructions, step-by-steps, how-to)
- To practice our metacognitive and organizational skills
- To gain presentation skills
- To set a goal, dive in and work to achieve it!

Your written instructions and presentation should include:

- 1) An overall description of the skill or procedure you are conquering
- 2) Materials needed
- 3) Descriptions of any dangers or important considerations
- 4) Clear procedural instructions for how to successfully/safely do it

TRICKS OF THE TRADE! TIPS FOR GREAT PROCEDURAL WRITING OR PRESENTATIONS

1) Conquer a REALISTIC skill

It shouldn't be a skill that you already know (how to sharpen a pencil, how to shovel snow)

It should be a skill will be...

- SAFE

- FINISHED IN A REALISTIC AMOUNT OF TIME (Short yet interesting tasks please!)

Ex. You wouldn't have enough time to learn how to build a computer, make it, create the instructions and develop a presentation by the final week of January

- APPROVED BY YOUR FAMILY Do you have the materials needed at home?

Is your family willing to buy them?

Do they think it is safe for you to do?

Are they available to supervise you if doing something with the stove, etc?

***Can't find a realistic skill??? Go to www.DIY.org and search for an interesting skill. If it is marked as NEWB, you'll probably be able to finish it in time!

2) Imagine your audience has NO CLUE how to do your task.

3) Target your tasks!

Before you begin, stop and think about what is needed to finish your task.

What materials do you need?

What are the main steps you would take to finish it?

You can even look up instructions and follow them (ex. a cook book, etc)

Break them down into numbered steps in order

4) Begin at the end!

Show an example of the finished product at the beginning of your instructions so the audience understands what you are going to show them

5) Use command words to describe what to do

"Measure 50 ml of water and pour it into the mixing bowl"

is better than

"50 ml of water"

6) Eliminate extra or unneeded words/information

"Measure 50 ml of water and pour it into the mixing bowl"

is better than

"Measure 50 ml of fresh, beautiful water and pour it into the mixing bowl"

7) Get Visual!

Use graphics to help your audience understand how to complete the task

(Examples: drawings, diagrams, video clips, photos)

8) Give them a TIP!

What is one mini-skill or neat technique that you realized while you learned the skill?

Tell the audience about it so they can learn too!

9) Check your work!

Read through your instructions and imagine a person actually following them.

Would they end up finishing the instructions correctly? If not, you may need to adjust your instructions before handing them in.

***We will examine and practice some of these tips in class as we move through the month

HOW TO KNOW IF YOU HAVE DONE WELL ON THIS ASSIGNMENT:

- ☐ My new skill is **SAFE!** *I chose a skill that is entirely safe, or I have adult help/supervision for a skill that might be dangerous (cooking with a stove, using sharp objects to build something).*
- ☐ I have spoken with my parent/guardian to get them to approve my skill.
Please see the application sheet at the back of this booklet
- ☐ I started right away and used my time wisely to get finished on time.
- ☐ I didn't spend my time distracting other students from getting their work finished.
- ☐ I have included a copy of my notes, mind map or ideas with the instructions that I handed in.
- ☐ My procedural writing clearly describes all of the steps to my new skill
 - I used the tips above in order to make my instructions clear and interesting)
- ☐ My presentation is visual, interesting and clearly describes my new skill in a professional manner
 - description, materials, dangers/considerations, clear steps
 - not slouching, chewing gum or picking your nose (and/or eating it)
 - speaking clearly and with enthusiasm
 - giving the crowd a chance to ask three questions at the end of your presentation

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Application Sheet

Which skill are you hoping to conquer? _____

Are there any special materials that you will need to find or buy?

What are they? _____

Are there any possible dangers or safety considerations involved in your skill? What are they? _____

Do you feel that you will be able to learn the skill and finish the project by the final week of January? What obstacles might stop you from getting it finished? _____

Please have your parent/guardian sign the back of this sheet and add any notes/concerns they might have.

*****If your parent/guardian does not approve (safety, time, \$\$\$) you need to look for another topic/skill.**

*****Return your application sheet to the teacher by _____**

Hi Parents! Please sign below if you approve of your child's project idea, and feel free to include a note if you have any concerns.

(Name)

(Signature)

*****Not legally binding! :) Just want to make sure you're on board!**

Any thoughts/concerns: