

Create a How-To Book

SCIENCE



Book Builder

Overview

Students write a set of instructions clear enough for someone else to follow without help, practising procedural writing.

Steps for Teachers

1. Students choose a process they can genuinely perform and explain
2. Students perform the process once, writing down every single thing they do
3. Students look for steps they skipped because they seemed obvious, and add them
4. Students list the materials needed on the first page
5. Students plan one page per step, numbered in order
6. Students photograph or draw each step as it actually looks
7. Students add warnings or tips where a reader is likely to go wrong
8. A classmate follows the book exactly, without asking questions, and reports what failed

Example

A student writes 'How to Plant a Bean.' Page one lists a cup, soil, a bean and water. The six steps each have a photograph, and step four warns 'Do not push the bean all the way to the bottom – it needs to be about as deep as your first knuckle.' A classmate follows it and gets a sprout in nine days.

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Completeness	No step is missing; a stranger could follow it start to finish	Mostly complete; one assumed step trips the reader	Key steps are missing or out of order
Clarity of Instruction	Each step is one action, stated in the imperative, with no ambiguity	Steps are clear but some combine several actions	Steps are vague or describe rather than instruct
Illustration Match	Every picture shows exactly what its step describes	Most pictures match their step	Pictures are decorative rather than instructive
Book Craft	Text is easy to read, art supports every page, and the layout is consistent throughout	Pages are readable with some crowding or uneven placement	Text overlaps art or is hard to read; layout is inconsistent