



Smarty Activity

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APP: *Treasure Kai and the Lost Gold of Shark Island*

Activity Title: Writing "How to" Paragraphs

Approximate Grade Level(s): 2-4

Subject(s): Language Arts, Science

Student Friendly Objective:

- **I will write a "How to" paragraph, explaining how to _____.** (Teacher-Assigned Topics)

Common Core Standards:

Language Arts: Writing

- **W.2 – Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.**
- **W.4 – With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose.**

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- **W.5 – With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing.**
- **W.6 – With guidance and support from adults, use technology to produce and publishing writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others.**

Bloom’s Taxonomy:

- **Remembering: recall, list, describe, write**
- **Understanding: restate, explain**
- **Applying: show, construct, choose**
- **Analyzing: examine, explain**
- **Evaluating: select, choose, discuss**
- **Creating: compose, design**

Prior Knowledge Needed:

- **Prior to beginning this activity, students need to understand...**
 - 1. how to write a topic sentence**
 - 2. how to write detail sentences listing the steps**
 - 3. how to write a conclusion sentence (if desired by the teacher)**
 - 4. If applicable for the grade level, Transition Words should also be used to begin the detail sentences.**

Pre-Activity Interest:

- **Interact with the storybook app *Treasure Kai and the Lost Gold of Shark Island*.**
- **Review the “Quicksand” video at <http://treasurekai.com/fun-fact-videos/>.**
- **Lead the class in a brainstorming session of the various topics they could use to explain “How to” do**

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something.” This could be done on a large screen, using a free technological app, such as *iBrainstorm*.

Direct Instructions:

- **Review “How to” paragraphs.**
- **Show example “How to” paragraph of “Quicksand.” (end of document)**
- **Examine its topic sentence.**
- **Examine its detail sentences and Transition Words (if applicable).**
- **Examine its concluding sentence or choose to leave it out if you prefer.**
- ***You could also have students review sentence variety or correctly writing compound sentences if this has been taught previously.**
- **Have students become familiar with *DraftPad* or whatever writing app you choose.**

Smarty Activity:

- **Each student selects a topic from the brainstorm list or is given a teacher-assigned topic.**
- **Students list a number of steps (# determined by you) on “How to” do their topic.**
- **Students write a topic sentence.**
- **Students write detail sentences of the steps, using Transition Words if applicable.**
- **Students write a conclusion sentence (your choice).**
- **Students decide on a title.**
- **Students form groups for peer editing.**
- **Students revise.**
- **Students present.**

Assessment:

- **Assessment or grading is an individual choice; however, keep your Common Core Standards in mind while creating your assessment.**
- **Create the assessment prior to giving the students the activity. Share it with the students before they begin the activity so that they will know “up front” how they will be assessed.**
- **Use your favorite search engine to locate assessment rubrics. One of my personal favorites is rubrics4teachers.com.**

Required Materials and Equipment:

- **iPad**
- **internet**
- **projector**
- **app *Treasure Kai and the Lost Gold of Shark Island***
- **Free technological apps such as *iBrainstorm, DraftPad***
- **Sample “How to” paragraph about “Quicksand” (end of this document)**

Technology Note: The technological references stated in this activity are not exclusively required, but are indicative of your possible choices.

Bibliography

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Making Quicksand is Easy

Treasure Kai has an experience with real quicksand, but it is easy for you to make fake quicksand. First, you need a bowl, a wooden spoon, yellow food color, corn starch, and water for your supplies. Next, you stir two parts corn starch to one part water in the bowl and add a drop of food color. Finally, you test the quicksand with action figures to see if they float. It is so easy to make quicksand, and it is fun to watch the action figures float!

***You have my permission to modify this paragraph to meet your class's needs.**