

Paper Airplane Activity for Science Writing Unit (Accommodation Article)

Materials: Scrap Paper

Tech: None

Time: 15 minutes

Objectives:

- Students will **understand** the importance of clear and concise methods and visuals in science writing
- Students will **relate** their experiences in this activity to their upcoming assignment

Directions:

Each student will get two sheets of paper. On one of the sheets of paper they will explain how to create a paper airplane for their partner without looking at a computer or other form of technology. They can provide visuals, steps, and other useful tips on their sheet of paper. Once they have completed their paper airplane “method” they will then exchange with a partner and using the other sheet of paper, follow the method exactly as written trying to create a paper airplane.

Once each student has a paper airplane, they line up and attempt to fly them. The airplane that travels the farthest wins. As a class students then describe what worked about the methods, why certain airplanes flew better and how certain directions worked better than others.

Talking points:

What sort of language worked the best for describe how to build a paper airplane?

What was the most challenging part of building a paper airplane?

What could your partner have provided to make building the airplane easier?

How did visual aids help in building your airplanes?

Debrief with the students:

- How to explain the scientific method to your audience
- How to use diagrams and clear, concise, language as a rhetorical tool