**Procedural Writing**

Procedural writing is a step-by-step guide on how to do something. It’s all the steps written out, and the more clear the steps are the easier the task becomes to do. Many of you have seen examples of procedural writing before: recipes, video game walkthroughs, and instructions on putting together a *Costco* basketball net (ask Mr. Black how well that one was written).

There are many great examples of procedural writing that we encounter regularly, but procedural writing can easily become complicated when things aren’t fully explained or are written in a confusing manner.

Watch the following video on the procedure for a peanut butter and jam sandwich: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDA3_5982h8>

While the father in this example is being purposefully thick in his interpretation of the instructions, it is a great example of how someone who may not be familiar with whatever you write about could end up following your instructions.

Now it’s your turn.

**First**, pick something you already know how to do as your topic (e.g. skate backwards, take a wrist shot, a walk through of a video game level, a recipe, skipping, etc.).

**Then**, write your title “How to…” and fill in your activity so that anyone who reads it can clearly see what you’re explaining how to do.

**Next**, do the activity and notice every single set in the process. Some people find it helpful to write down the steps as they do it, some find it easier to write them all down afterwards. Do what works for you, but don’t leave out any steps, even if they seem trivial.

Done it? Great! Now comes the really interesting part. Give your instructions to someone else in your home, and remind them that they need to follow the instructions **exactly how you wrote them**. Watch how they do the activity and see if you need to clarify your writing. Make any adjustments you think are needed.

Now that you’ve written one. Think of something you’ve always wanted to learn to do, and take time to learn that skill. It may be difficult. Use instructional videos, how-to guides, or have a member of your household teach you how to do. **Then**, write a new procedural piece teaching your new skills to anyone who reads it following the same steps as before.