

Following Directions

The ability to follow written directions is essential for students in almost any circumstance, but particularly in a science laboratory. Some errors may result in nothing worse than a failed experiment. However, in certain experiments, the safety of the students may depend on their following directions correctly.

The following is a simple exercise in following directions:

Enter the starting time (including minutes and seconds): _____

The answer to each question is *yes*. If you do not answer *yes*, repeat the previous step or steps.

A. Obtain a clean, square (12 cm × 12 cm) piece of paper.

B. Fold the paper diagonally.

1. *Is the paper now a triangle?*

C. Position the triangle on the desk with the long side facing you.

D. From left to right, label the corners of the triangle *A, B, C*.

E. Fold point *C* to side *AB*, so that the top edge of the fold is parallel to the base of the original triangle.

2. *Do you see three triangles?*

F. From left to right, label the corners of the triangle you just made *D, E, F*.

G. Fold point *A* to point *F*.

3. *Do you see four triangles? If not, go back two steps.*

H. Fold a single layer of side *B* down in front as far as it will go.

I. Turn the side with *E* showing face down on the desk.

J. Fold the flap that shows down in front as far as it will go.

K. Fill the cup with water. If it leaks, return to step A.

Enter the finishing time (including minutes and seconds) _____