

Grow your own crystals

This task is about writing instructions.

Read the article *Grow Your Own Crystals* by Julie Ellis (Connected, No. 1, 2000) then complete the tasks below.

- Use the information in the article to write a set of instructions for growing crystals.

Use the **criteria for writing instructions** to give you an idea of what your set of instructions should include, and what style of writing to use.

- Once you have finished writing your instructions, reflect on your writing using the student assessment sheet.
- After you have completed your assessment, we will talk about your writing.

Criteria for writing instructions:

- **Purpose** - The title shows which crystals will be grown.
- **Equipment** - All the equipment needed to grow these crystals is listed.
- **Ingredients** - All the ingredients needed to grow these crystals are listed.
- **Steps** - All the things that have to be done are recorded and each step is written on a new line.
- **Logical sequence** - The steps are in the same order of how the crystals are to be made.
- **Verbs** - Each step begins with the action word that tells the reader what to do.
- **Present tense** - All instructions are written in the present tense.
- **Illustrations** - Instructions can have pictures. The pictures add understanding to the instructions.

Student assessment sheet for writing instructions

Name:

(Circle your assessment like this A (S) N)

Assessment key: **N** = not often **S** = sometimes **A** = always

		No	Yes	
a)	The title states the purpose, what is to be made.	N	S	A
b)	The text tells the reader what equipment is needed.	N	S	A
c)	The text tells the reader what ingredients are needed.	N	S	A
d)	All the steps are written down, and each step is written on a new line.	N	S	A
e)	There is a logical sequence , all the steps are in order.	N	S	A
f)	Verbs are used at the beginning of each instruction.	N	S	A
g)	The present tense is used.	N	S	A
h)	If illustrations are used: <i>they are clear, and add to the understanding of the instructions.</i>	N	S	A

	Student's thoughts on this pieces of writing	Teacher's thoughts on this piece of writing
P ositive points		
M inus points		
I nteresting points		

Next time I write instructions, I will:
