## **Giving Clear Directions for a Task**



Your Directions	What Students Will Hear & Understand
The WHAT: How will you explain to students what you want them to do?	Look at the directions you just created in the column to the left. Then, answer each of these questions from the perspective of one of your students. If your directions are not explicit enough for students to be able to answer each of these questions, go back and change them.
The WHY: How will you explain the rationale for the task to your students?	<ul> <li>□ What are we going to be doing?</li> <li>□ Why are we doing it? Optional: Why are we doing it this way? □ What steps or process will we follow? - Optional: What is the first step? The second? What should you do if? □ What is the expected noise or volume level for each step? - Optional: What will it look like? What will it sound like? □ How will we know if we did this correctly?</li> </ul>
The HOW: What are the steps you want students to follow?	
	NOTE: Any (or all) of the above questions can be used as checks-for-understanding when you deliver these directions to your students.

How You Will Deliver Your Directions	What Students Will Experience
Use this space to create a plan for how you will deliver these directions to your students.	Look at the plan you just created in the column to the left. Pretend that you execute it exactly as written. Answer these questions <b>from the perspective of your students</b> . If you answer "No" to one or more of the following items, consider revising your plan.
	<ul><li>☐ Were the directions modeled for you?</li><li>☐ Did the teacher emphasize key parts of the directions?</li></ul>
	☐ Were the directions posted where you could see them?
	Did you have multiple opportunities to ask questions?
	Did the teacher check that you understood the directions before beginning the activity?
	☐ Do you know how to ask for help if you get confused?
	☐ Was there a signal to begin?

## A Step-by-Step Sequence for Delivering Directions

(The following sequence represents one set of steps you could follow when delivering directions to students.)

- 1. Use an attention-getting signal.
- 2. In a concise and student-friendly way, explain the WHAT and WHY.
- 3. Introduce the cue word or signal to begin.

Ex: "When I say GO," "When your hear me clap," "When I ring the bell..."

- 4. Give the directions (the step-by-step "HOW").
- 5. Model or have students model.
- 6. Ask for questions.
- 7. Check for understanding.
- 8. Cue to begin.

## Adapted from:

Shindler, J. (2010). Transformative classroommanagement: Positivestrategies toengage all students and promote a psychology of success. New York: Jossey-Bass.