

Write It / Build It

Grades: 4, 5

Team Size: 4 maximum (1-2 writing, 1-2 building)

Duration: 25 minutes to write, 25 minutes to build

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Summary Description: Writers will be shown a “picture” and will write a description of it. In a separate room, the builders will be given the objects of the “picture” and the written description, made by their writer teammates, and attempt to rebuild it. The team with the most pieces placed correctly wins. This event tests competitor's ability to clearly communicate in writing and follow written directions.

The “**picture**” is a designed layout of individual objects installed on a flat surface, such as a poster board.

Concepts Covered:

- Spatial orientation including location, orientation and relative position to other objects.
- Technical writing for clarity and understanding.
- Ability to understand and follow written instructions.

Rules/Competition Format:

1. Writers will go into a room where a “picture” that has been constructed is located. It will be mounted on a poster board and placed on an easel for all writers to observe. The “picture” will be made from objects such as scrap box materials or other commonly found items. Pencils and unlimited lined paper will be provided. Writers will have 25 minutes to write down a description of the “picture”. They will be timed. Starting time and ending time will be signaled. Writers will be given a 5 minute warning before their time is up. Writers must write the school name on the lined paper.
2. Builders will be placed in a separate room where they are not able to see the “picture”.
3. At the end of 25 minutes writing time, the writers will be released, all at once.
4. Verbal or other kinds of communication are not allowed in passing between the writers and the builders.
5. Numbers (1, 2, 3, etc.) can be used in the written description.
6. Diagrams or any kind of drawing are not allowed to be used in the written description.
7. Builders will be given the description written by their writer teammates. Builders will have 25 minutes to construct the “picture” using their writer teammates’ description. Starting time and ending time will be signaled. Builders will be given a 5 minute warning before their time is up.
8. Builders will build the “picture” on a piece of paper. Builders should write the word “TOP” on the side of the paper that corresponds to the top of the “picture” displayed on the easel. Builders must also write the school name on the paper. If the school name gets covered up by objects, builders must

write the school name again at a spot where it is visible. If “TOP” gets covered up by objects placed on the paper, builders must write “TOP” at another spot on the side of the paper that corresponds to the top of the “picture” displayed on the easel. NO “TOP” WRITTEN VISIBLY RESULTS IN DISQUALIFICATION, NO SCHOOL NAME WRITTEN VISIBLY RESULTS IN NO POINTS. ONLY THESE TWO THINGS CAN BE WRITTEN ON THE BUILDING PAPER. ANY OTHER MARKINGS OR WORDS WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION. INCORRECT ORIENTATION WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.

9. At the end of the 25 minutes building time, the builders will leave, all at once.
10. The “picture” to be built will be different for each grade level. The “picture” will become progressively more difficult for each grade level and include more individual objects (roughly 15 for 4th grade and 20 for 5th grade).

Scoring:

The team that builds the picture nearest to the original is declared the winner. For each object one point will be given if placed in the proper location, one point for orientation and one point for relativity to other objects.

Tie Break Criteria: A selection of pre-determined items will be doubled in points. The items will be the same for all teams. The score after doubling points will be used to break a tie in a placement.

Materials provided to Olympians at event:

Writers will be given pencil and lined paper to record the description of a “picture” that will be available for participants to look at, but not touch and displayed on an easel. They will also have a sealed plastic bag containing the materials that might be necessary for reproducing the “picture”. Writers are not to open the bag. Writers will be allowed to come to the easel, measure by eyeballing/look closely but very carefully. Any paper being used as a ruler is not allowed.

Builders will be given a sealed bag with all the necessary materials needed to reproduce the “picture” along with a large sheet of paper of the same dimensions as the original “picture”.

Practice and Preparation:

A variety of everyday school or household items, as well as a supply of materials from the scrap box will be needed for practice.

Instruct the students to first give the orientation of the picture (landscape or portrait). This will be important in the whole scoring process.

Start with only a few objects (fewer than ten). Have a “picture” built by the coach and have the writers practice writing down the description and builders reading the description and building the “picture”. It also helps to switch roles during the practice, so the students will experience both the writing part and the building part of the challenge.

Develop a system to identify where each item is located in the “picture”. You might use quadrants, map directions, a coordinate system, a clock face, finger measurement, pick one object and measure the

others to and from that one, etc. Be creative and remember that the “picture” may not fit exactly into your measuring system, so you want the students to think creatively and have the flexibility to decide which method or combination of methods will work best.

It can also help to look at the “picture” as a whole, of what it looks like; for example – a face, a flower, a house or a circle. Write it down in the description as a helper hint, in addition to the description of individual objects.

It would be helpful to review the names of shapes.

Don’t forget that the items being placed also need to be in the proper orientation and relative to other objects. An example of orientation might be “Put the colored side up”. Relativity implies there might be objects stacked or layered. While the writers will be looking at the picture in an upright position, the builders will be recreating it on a flat surface such as a table or the floor.

? Event Questions

Event Coaches should submit any questions about the event to weso.events@gmail.com. Please enter the event title in the subject line. Answers will be posted on the WESO Blog. You can sign up to receive blog posts at <https://wesoscience.org>.

A few Q & A from past years

Q 1. If the builders have to check in at the same time as the writers, what will they be doing during the 25-minute writing time? Can they bring a book?

A: Yes, for the book. No electronic devices are allowed. We take the writers first to their room and the builders go later or at the same time to another room.

Q 2. How much paper will the writers have? Will it be lined? Will they be writing with pencils?

A: Yes, pencils, erasers, and unlimited lined paper will be provided.

Q 3. Can the writers draw horizontal lines to separate the sections of their description?

A: No drawings of any kind.

Q 4. Will the writers be able to talk to each other during the writing part and will the builders be able to talk to each other during the building part?

A; Answer is yes for both. But they have to do it quietly, not disturbing the others.

Q5. What does building the “picture” entail?

A: Putting the objects on the large sheet of paper of the same dimensions as the original “picture”. No gluing is involved. No peeling off sticker, if there is one used as an object.

Q6. No other writing on the builders’ paper other than “TOP” and the school name, correct?

A: Yes, the only things that can be written on the picture by the builders are "Top" and their school name. No other markings are allowed.

Q7. What size is the building paper?

A: The size of the paper used to build the picture on is 12 x 18.