Follow these instructions:

Read the following piece of writing.

**Experiment: Red and Blue Skies**

It is not always easy to believe that all the colors in the sky come from the different way particles in the atmosphere reflect and absorb sunlight. But you can demonstrate it for yourself with this very simple experiment. The effects are quite subtle, and not always easy to see, so you need to conduct the experiment in a very dark room. Fill a straight glass with cold water, then add half a teaspoonful of milk. Now try shining the torch at the glass from different angles and watch how the color of the milky water changes very slightly. Hold the torch close to the glass for a better effect. Add another half-teaspoonful of milk and repeat. Finally, add a full teaspoonful of milk, and try shining the torch at the glass from a variety of different angles.

*From *How the Earth Works by John Farndon*

Read through the text again, underlining the actual instructions. On a separate sheet of paper, draw a flow chart that shows the instructions in the correct order.

Try the experiment yourself, then make notes under these headings.

Equipment/materials needed

What I did

What I saw

What I learned from the experiment
Reporting

Write a brief factual report on the experiment Red and Blue Skies.

Remember: Use straightforward statements in the passive voice when writing a report. For example, write the milk is mixed with the water rather than I mixed the milk with the water.

Do you think this old saying is likely to be true?

Red sky at night, shepherd’s delight –
Red sky in the morning, shepherd’s warning.

In your own words, write an explanation of why the sky appears to change color and what causes this. Before you write, try to find out more information. Use reference books or the Internet. Then compare your findings with the information provided in the previous exercise. Don’t forget to say where you got your information from. Begin here, and continue on a separate sheet of paper.
Following instructions

Read the following piece of writing.

Experiment: Red and Blue Skies

It is not always easy to believe that all the colors in the sky come from the different way particles in the atmosphere reflect and absorb sunlight. But you can demonstrate it for yourself with this very simple experiment. The effects are quite subtle, and not always easy to see, so you need to conduct the experiment in a very dark room. Fill a straight glass with cold water, then add half a teaspoonful of milk. Now try shining the torch at the glass from different angles and watch how the color of the milky water changes very slightly. Hold the torch close to the glass for a better effect. Add another half-teaspoonful of milk and repeat. Finally, add a full teaspoonful of milk, and try shining the torch at the glass from a variety of different angles.

From How the Earth Works by John Farndon

Read through the text again, underlining the actual instructions. On a separate sheet of paper, draw a flow chart that shows the instructions in the correct order.

Try the experiment yourself, then make notes under these headings.

Equipment/materials needed  straight glass of cold water, 2 tsps milk, teaspoon, torch

What I did  filled straight glass with cold water, added half a teaspoonful of milk

shone torch at glass from different angles

What I saw  

What I learned from the experiment  Answers may vary

The activities on this page focus on the instructions for a scientific experiment. The exercises are designed to give your child practice in formal writing. Encourage your child to do the actual experiment.
Reporting

Write a brief factual report on the experiment Red and Blue Skies.

**Remember:** Use straightforward statements in the passive voice when writing a report. For example, write the milk is mixed with the water rather than I mixed the milk with the water.

Do you think this old saying is likely to be true?

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Check that your child’s report is written in a formal style, suitable for a science report and that it is expressed mainly in the passive voice. The explanation should be concise and informative and contain a list of the reference sources.