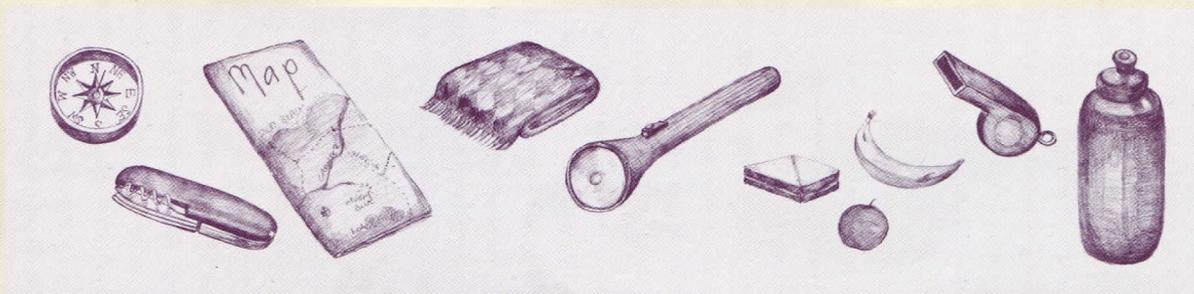


## Writing Task 1: Instructions for Hikers



### Literacy skills assessed by ELLA

In the ELLA Writing Task *Instructions for Hikers*, students were asked to write a set of instructions for hikers. The literacy skills assessed included:

- constructing and formatting a set of instructions
- using appropriate modality and sentence structure, as well as correct spelling and punctuation.

### Literacy in the context of the Geography Syllabus

Students should be able to:

- present information clearly
- explain the reasons why

### Strategies to address literacy in geography

Students need to be assisted to develop writing skills, to move from instructions that are simple imperatives to instructions that are organised and elaborated.

#### 1. Planning a writing task

Mind maps clarify understanding of ideas and concepts, or help to revise work students have learnt. The following steps should be used to assist students clarify concepts:

- choose a concept, an idea, or a topic, for example, hiking in National Parks
- draw a circle around the concept and then draw spokes radiating outwards to words associated with the concept
- keep adding more words or ideas and build up the mind map into a web pattern

- look for related ideas where spokes connect
- arrange the mind map into sub-groups or sub-headings (such as *Before you leave, Equipment necessary*).

#### 2. Constructing cause and effect sentences

When constructing an explanation text it may be necessary to show cause and effect relationships. Teachers can construct sentences to be completed by students using a word bank that would include words such as: *as a consequence of, because, caused by, gave rise to, culminated in, as a result of, an effect of, produced by, contributed to, hence, herefore, led to, resulted in, brought about, an outcome of.*

#### 3. Writing a set of non-sequenced instructions

Demonstrate the structure of an instructing text using a scaffold showing the stages:

- statement of goal in introductory paragraph; materials needed; conditions required
- a logically organised set of sentences that tell how or why

Grammatical features of elaborated instructions include:

- appropriate technical language
- conjunctions that help show cause and effect
- use of the timeless present tense



## Acknowledgements

DET NSW Student Assessment and Reporting. (1999). Writing Task 1: Instructions for hikers. *Linking ELLA to Geography, 1999*. This material originated from NSW Department of Education and Training  
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