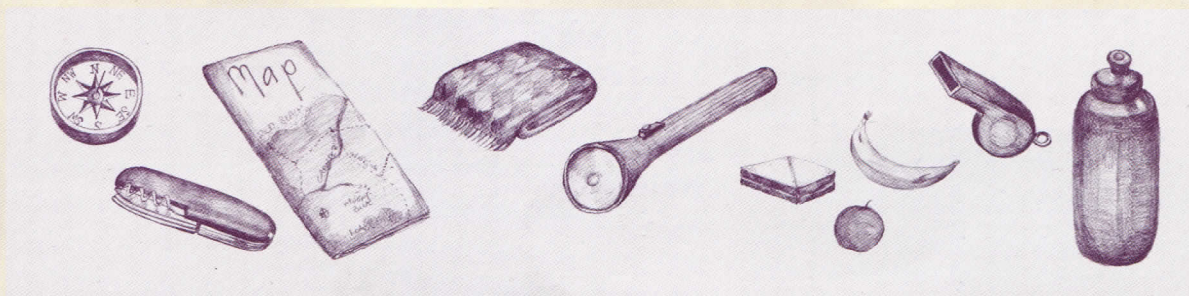


Writing Task 1: *Instructions for Hikers*



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