

Drawing Instructions

Goal of Exercise: To increase the student's clarity in giving explanations of complicated topics.

Description: Find a number of different coloring pages (from the internet or a book). The drawings should not be too complicated, but not too simple either (a single star, or heart). Bring a stack of these to class, along with blank sheets of paper.

Divide the class up into pairs. Students paired with each other will sit back-to-back so they cannot see what their partner is holding. To each pair, give one student a completed coloring page, and to the other student a blank sheet of paper and a pencil.

The student with the completed page must give specific instructions to their partner on how to recreate the picture on the blank page. The student drawing the copy may not look at the original. They may only receive instructions from their partner. The partner may not look at the copy in order to see how it's "coming along".

At the end, the goal is to make the copy drawing as similar as possible to the original. This can only happen with excellent instructions from the partner. Repeat the exercise again but reverse the partner roles so that each student has a chance to draw and give instructions.

Teacher's Note: Printing out children's coloring pages from the internet is a quick and easy way to find images appropriate for this exercise. Images should be large (8.5 x 11 pages), and not too complicated. Drawing pages designed for young children are the best. Animals, monsters, and aliens tend to work great for this exercise.

