

Paper Airplane Activity: A Learning Styles Demonstration

Participants will make four different paper airplanes following instructions given using different modalities (visual, auditory, read/write, kinesthetic). There will be 4 rounds in total. Participants will make a paper airplane in each round. The airplanes are different each round to ensure novelty.

Directions

- Provide each participant with 4 sheets of blank letter size paper.
- Have them clear their desk except for 1 piece of paper oriented in the portrait position. Do this for each round.
- Follow the directions for each round.

Round 1 – Auditory

Read the directions verbatim from the instructions below (“Paper Airplane Instructions”). Do not elaborate or use any gestures. Observe to see which participants are able to complete the task.

Round 2 – Visual

Using a second piece of paper, ask participants to try again. This time give them the printed instructions with only diagrams and no written words. See diagrams below. Again, observe which participants are able to complete the task successfully.

Round 3 – Read/Write

Using another piece of paper, ask participants to try again. This time give them the printed instructions with only written directions and no visuals. (You can download instructions from www.foldnfly.com). Observe which participants are able to complete the task successfully.

Round 4 – Kinesthetic

Using the last piece of paper, ask participants to try one more time. This time demonstrate the step-by-step procedure (or alternatively you can show a demonstration video taken from www.foldnfly.com) and allow participants to follow along with you as you make the various folds to create the airplane.

***Note: To ensure novelty, it is recommended to use different type of airplanes for each round. See www.foldnfly.com for instructions on how to make different paper airplanes.**

Paper Airplane Instructions

Step 1: Start with a regular piece of rectangle paper that's 8.5 x 11.0 inches (215.9 x 279.4 mm).

Step 2: Fold the left half to right to make a crease in the center.

Step 3: Unfold.

Step 4: Fold both top corners to the center.

Step 5: Fold the new left and right corners to the center.

Step 6: Fold plane in half from right to left.

Step 7: Now fold the left edge to the right to form the wing. Use your fingernail to help make the tip as pointy as possible.

Step 8: Turn the plane over.

Step 9: Fold other wing to line up with the first wing.

Step 10: Unfold the wings.

Step 11: Make sure the wings are tilted up a bit.

Step 12: Hold at the base and throw it far!

Diagram

