POST VISIT ACTIVITY
Making a Simple Book

Review: After exploring how a picture book is made and visiting the Museum, students should have an opportunity to make their own books and learn about the basic parts of a book. The book making example given below is a simple one that students should be able to then reproduce on their own.

Objective: To have students think about the importance of sequencing events in a book while making a book of their own.

Procedure: Before this lesson you should select an activity like brushing one’s teeth and break it down into six steps. Each of the steps should be written and illustrated on a separate strip of paper. Explain to the students that they are going to have an opportunity to create their own books. In order to practice this skill each of them will create a “How To” book. Present the title of your book to the class. Then display the six events in random order. Have the students work together to place the events in the proper sequence. If you have used words like “first”, “next”, “and then”, “finally”, help students understand how these words can help the reader determine the correct sequence.

Exercise: Have each student choose a topic for their “How To” book. Provide each student with a 12 x 18 sheet of paper and have them fold it into 8 equal segments. The top left segment will represent the cover of the book, the one to the right, page one, the next, page two with the bottom left segment representing the back cover. Explain to the students that they will be creating a model, the “story board”, for their original books. Have the students write and illustrate their stories focusing mainly on the words and making simple sketches for their illustration because they will have to draw them again for their final copy. Confer with the students, (or have them conference with a peer) editing for proper sequencing and clarity of instructions. Using the instructions below, have each student create a book. Have them “produce” their final copy incorporating any revisions and edits. Title, author and illustrator should appear on the front cover. Leave the design of the back cover to the students.

Variations:
1. Younger students can begin with the making of the book and then move to depicting their “How To” exercise in 6 separate pictures.
2. Rather than creating a “How To” book have the students tell a story devoting 2 pages to the beginning, 2 to the middle and 2 to the ending of their story.

Book Making Instructions:

1. Fold the paper long ways lining up the edges. Crease well and unfold.
2. Fold the paper in the other direction. Crease well. Do not unfold. Fold each of the 2 sides back toward the center. Crease well and unfold.
3. Starting at the fold, cut along the center line until you reach the vertical fold.
4. Open the paper completely and fold long ways.
5. Holding on to each side, gently push the ends together to form the pages of a book.
6. Fold front and back covers around. There should be 6 pages inside for the art work.