

## Creating a Visual Essay, Grade 9

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### Lesson Plan Summary:

Instead of having the students write the basic “How To” paper, this lesson will allow them to create a visual essay that depicts the steps in a process. This lesson is easily adapted to many subject areas and highlights the universal ideas that can be understood from images rather than words. It also lets all your students get creative and use the technology of digital cameras. This lesson should take about 2-5 days to complete (depending on availability of cameras and printers).

**Objective:** Students will create a visual essay by using a camera to take pictures of the steps in a given process. **TEKS §110.41. English I. (b) 2(E), 4(D), 17, 21.**

**Materials:** digital camera, heavy card stock, camera photo paper (4x6) or (5x7), glue, and word processor.

### Directions:

1. **Define what a process is.** *A series of actions or operations to create an end result.*
2. **Brainstorm types of processes.** *photosynthesis, water cycle, baking a cake, sewing an article of clothing, how a bill becomes a law, building a house, changes in a community over time, etc.*
3. **Model a visual essay by showing the digital images of the lumber industry and the process of East Texas timber to useable lumber.** These images show some of the steps involved in the processing of timber, and can be found on the TIDES website.  
<http://tides.sfasu.edu:2009/cdm4/results.php?CISOOP1=exact&CISOFIELD1=CISOSEARCHALL&CISOROOT=/EastTexRC&CISOBOX1=Lumber+industry>
4. **Students need to complete research on a process.** After researching the process, the student should make a list of the steps involved in the process. Students may need to get “creative” in capturing the steps on camera.
5. **Students will need to print out their digital pictures and then use card stock to frame their pictures for display.** Students should submit their visual essay with all visual pictures in correct order. Students should include a brief typed statement about their photo on the back.

**EXAMPLE OF A VISUAL ESSAY:  
East Texas Timber to Lumber We Can Use – A Visual Essay**



## **Examples of Processes for Alternate Subjects**

(language arts, social studies, science, economics)

### Language Arts:

Writing a term paper  
Reading for information  
Writing an essay  
Preparing to take a test  
Preparing for the TAKS test  
(Any topic that can be researched as a process)

### Social Studies:

How a bill becomes law  
The Appeals process  
Westward movement  
Founding of the 13 original colonies  
The creation of the US Constitution  
(Any topic of interest)

### Science:

The water cycle  
Photosynthesis  
The body's immune response  
Creation of a tsunami  
Seasonal changes on the Earth  
Creation of compost and fertilization

### Economics

Creation of a monopoly  
Reaganomics "trickle down economy"  
Inflation and depression  
Stock Market Crash of 1929  
Mercantilism