

Unit 1 Project

Developing a Chemistry Newsletter

Student Textbook pages 152–153

This performance task provides an excellent opportunity for students to learn about the safe use of household chemicals in everyday life, and to demonstrate their communication skills by presenting what they have learned in the form of a newsletter. Students will have a chance to experience first-hand the challenges faced by scientists as they try to communicate important chemical information to the public. Through this performance task, students will begin to recognize the importance of achieving excellence in scientific literacy.

Many students will be tempted to carry out all of their research on the Internet. Encourage students to do research “in the field” by gleaming information from products found in their own homes and in hardware and grocery stores.

Students have an opportunity to flex their creative muscles with this performance task. Suggest to artistic students that they create comic strips or visual organizers to add interest to the newsletter. Students who like to write may enjoy creating fictitious scenarios or news items to illustrate safe and unsafe use of household chemicals. While the scenarios and comic strips can be imaginary or fanciful, the safety and chemical information contained within them must be factual, and the purpose clear.

Students may balk at the idea of interviewing a professional. Although experts are often more willing to help when contacted over the phone or by mail, students can send a questionnaire via e-mail. It is relatively easy to search for experts on the Web. You may want to go over students’ planned list of questions with them before they approach an expert.

Assessment and Evaluation

Performance Task	Curriculum Expectations	Assessment Tools/Techniques	Achievement Chart Category	Learning Skills
Unit 1 Project Developing a Chemistry Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [MCB V.03] describe how an understanding of matter and its properties can lead to the production of useful substances and new technologies [MCB 3.04] demonstrate an understanding of the need for the safe use of chemicals in everyday life (e.g. cleaners in the home, pesticides in the garden) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student-designed rubric for self-assessment: Rubric for Unit 1 Project (see “Assessment and Evaluation” in the front matter of <i>Teachers Resource CD-ROM</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making Connections Inquiry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teamwork Initiative Organization

Unit 1 Review Answers

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Answers to Knowledge/Understanding Questions

1. (c)
2. (c)
3. (c)