Peanut Butter & Jelly Communication Conundrum

Please describe to your partner fellow how to build the following peanut butter and jelly creation.

0.1 Assumptions

1. You have access to a car, are able to drive the car, and have permission to drive said car. In addition, you have the ability to purchase Trader Joes products and are able to find said products in the store.

2. You understand how to cut bread, unscrew a lid, mix substances together, use a knife to scoop substances from a jar, use a knife to spread substances onto another surface and screw a lid tight.

0.2 Directions for Creating Peanut Butter and Jelly Creation

1. Pack a bag with two butter knives, a display plate, napkins. Place said bag into your car.

2. Drive to the store and purchase Double Fiber bread, Trader Joes crunchy Peanut Butter, Trader Joes Strawberry Jelly. Do not pack items into a bag from the store, instead carry the three items to the car and add them to the previously described bag that was packed prior to shopping.

3. Drive from the store to Thurgood Marshall Academic High School. Find a parking place and park the car, being sure to curb the wheels and set the parking break.

4. Exit the car and move the bag of items from your car to the meeting location.

5. Move all items from the transportation bag onto the table in the front of the meeting room, right of the doorway as you walk into the room.

6. Open the bread bag, remove 1 piece of double fiber bread and place it on the plate with the bumpy top facing away from you and the bottom oriented lengthwise towards you.

7. Pick up the bread knife and use the bread knife to cut the bread along one of the bread’s long diagonal, obtaining two triangles. Repeat the process by cutting the bread along the other long diagonal. Please note that cutting along the long diagonal will result an approximately half of the area although it does not guarantee that this is exact. The approximation is acceptable. In the process of cutting the bread do not move it, you should now have a a slice that contains the bottom edge (bottom 1/4), contains the top edge (top 1/4) and two side 1/4’s with the side edges.

8. Put down the bread knife.

9. Pick up the peanut butter. Remove the lid by unscrewing it a counterclockwise direction. Place the lid on the table. Remove the plastic film from the top of the peanut butter. Dispose of the plastic film in the trash. Pick up one of the bread knives and use it to stir the peanut butter. Peanut butter separation demonstrates a higher quality peanut butter. Continue to stir until the oil and peanut butter have combined into one mixture. Use the butter knife that you used to stir the peanut butter to place the peanut butter on the top piece of the bread. There should be an average thickness of peanut butter of 1/4”. Place the bread back on the plate in the same position it was picked up from with the peanut butter up (facing away from the plate).

10. Repeat the process of spreading the peanut butter across the bottom 1/4 of the bread. Place the bread on the plate with the peanut butter up as it had been oriented when cutting the bread in 1/4’s. Place the peanut butter knife down with the peanut butter side to the right and the handle to the left. It should be placed lengthwise on the plate aligned next to the top edge of the peanut butter smeared bread.

11. Close the peanut butter by placing the lid on the open top (with the concave portion fitting on top of the jar) and screwing the lid in a clockwise direction.

12. Open the jelly by unscrewing the lid counterclockwise. The lid will pop, this demonstrates that the lid was newly opened.

13. Pick up the remaining butter knife. Place the knife into the jelly and use the knife to scoop out jelly. With jelly on the knife proceed to slather jelly on the remaining two pieces of bread with no peanut butter by picking up one piece at a time, slathering the jelly and placing the slathered bread face up (with the jelly away from the plate). The jelly should be slathered to an approximate thickness of 1/4 inch. Replace the pieces in their original orientation between

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the 2 top and bottom slices. The result should look similar to the piece of bread prior to slicing with the addition of peanut butter on the top and bottom 1/4’s and jelly on the right and left 1/4’s. Place the jelly knife with the handle down and jelly smeared portion up on the right side of the plate, aligned lengthwise next to right piece of bread.

14. Close the jelly jar by placing the concave side of the lid on the open top and screwing the lid clockwise.

0.3 What Should have Resulted

0.4 Discussion

• What details in the previous description are necessary?

• Which details are over and above what is required in order to complete the task? What is the result of having these additional details with the instructions?

• What can we learn from this task in terms of completing instructions for our partner teachers?

• What does this task highlight in comparison to the assumptions we make about our students? When is it ok to make assumptions, when is it better to have an explicit understanding of what our students do and don’t know.

• What is more important, communicating the exact tasks to be completed and every detail of those tasks or communicating the end product and the ordering of larger tasks?

• How important is it to share vocabulary for completing tasks?