

Bead Writing

“Write” names and messages by stringing beads on a bendable wire. Hang finished pieces in a window, string on a necklace or around a hat, pin to a bulletin board or display on a piece of matboard as a piece of art. When choosing beads, larger ones need heavier wire and more space.

Grade Levels 5-8

Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.



Materials

Galvanized Wire, 32-gauge, (33405-1032)
100-ft coil, need 4-ft per student

Opaque E-Beads (60726-1000), share
three packages across classroom

*Materials listed will make 2-1/2" high letters,
about 12" long*

Process:

1. Write a name or message on a piece of paper and use it as a guide to bend the wire into written words.
2. Bend wire in half for a 36" length (you'll be working on double-thick wire). Make a twist in the bent end so the beads will not fall off.
3. Hold the loose ends together and thread through random colored beads. Leave 1-1/2" free at the end and twist to hold beads in place.
4. Adjust the beads as needed. Any extra length can be used as a flourish at the end of the word.

National standards:

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

- **K-4** Students use different media, techniques and processes to communicate ideas, experiences and stories.
- **5-8** Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas.