Building a Paper Airplane

How to assemble your paper airplane:

Materials:
- One piece of blank, white 8½ X 11 paper
- A hard, flat surface

Step One: Set the paper in front of you so that one of the shorter sides is closest to you. Fold the paper exactly in half lengthwise to make a crease, and then unfold it.

Step Two: Fold each of the top corners down towards the middle, aligning them with the center crease. Your paper should now resemble a house with a peaked roof.

Step Three: Similarly to the last step, fold the top right edge of the 'roof' down so it aligns with the center crease. Repeat for the left side. Your paper should now resemble a mountain.

Step Four: Fold the entire model in half, so that the entire left side of the mountain aligns directly with the right side. Then turn the paper so that the longest edge is facing you.

Step Five: Fold down the open flap facing you so that the long slanted edge lines up all the way across the bottom. Flip over the entire model and do the same on the other side. The two flaps you folded should match up perfectly, and the model should be symmetrical.

Step Six: Lift up the two flaps you just folded so they are aligned horizontally. This flat surface created by the flaps is the top of the plane. Reinforce the creases to make the plane stronger.

Helpful Tips:

- When folding, make the edges of the folds as straight as you can so the plane is symmetrical. It is possible to use a ruler to draw a line on the paper before folding.
- Make the creases of your folds smooth and tight so they do not unfold.
- It is recommended that you fly your airplane outdoors in a light breeze so the wind carries it farther.
- When preparing to throw, point with your index finger on the side of the plane as a guide for the direction you want it to fly.
- Hold the plane at eye level and throw it like a dart; straight and fast.

Sources for Tips:

- http://www.origami-kids.com/0-9-paper-airplane-flying-tips-.htm
- http://www.laits.utexas.edu/hebrew/personal/toolbox/acm/airplane/airplane.html
- http://www.instructables.com/id/paper-airplane-tips/