

Origami

Letter Folding

Origami is a popular art form that involves folding paper into varied shapes. Many origami projects involve making birds, frogs and other animals. Many geometrical shapes are also possible. Most origami projects of this type use Kami or koi paper. This paper is thin and easy to fold. The most common size is a 6 inch by 6 inch square of paper. It is usually printed with a solid color or pattern on one side and left white on the other side.

These letter projects will use long thin rectangles of origami paper, colored on one side and white on the other, to create some of the letters of the alphabet.

You are allowed only simple folds where you fold the paper over by creasing the paper and folding one end towards the other. No twisting or bending is allowed. Only one layer of paper is folded at a time. You can cut off the remaining paper at the end of the folding. When you fold part of the paper over some of the colored front and some of the white back can be seen. If you fold a part of the paper with the white side showing you can cover the white shape with the red side that will show after the fold. The number of folds must be odd for only the red side to show at the end.

The easiest way to start letter folding is to use long thin rectangular strips of paper with no print. The strips can be any length. Some letters work best with long strips (the letter F for example). This allows the student to make many letters with very few steps. After they have had success with the white paper challenge them to the same task but require them to use the paper with a colored side and a white side. This increases the difficulty of the task but will help them develop their visual perception skills. Many students will find the letters I have provided plans for easy to do. Other letters are much more of a challenge.

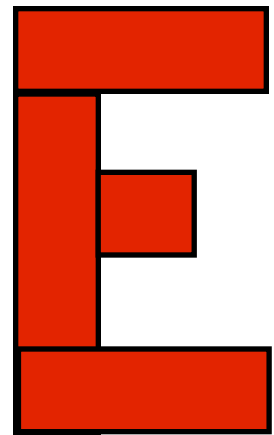
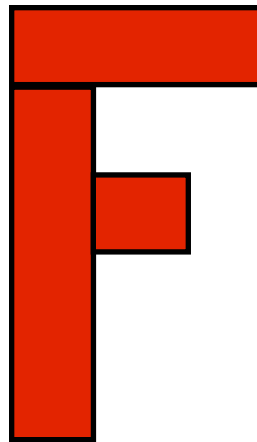
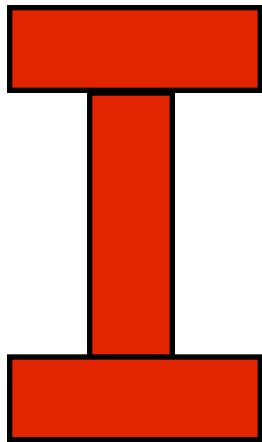
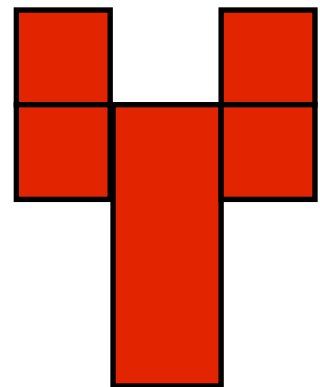
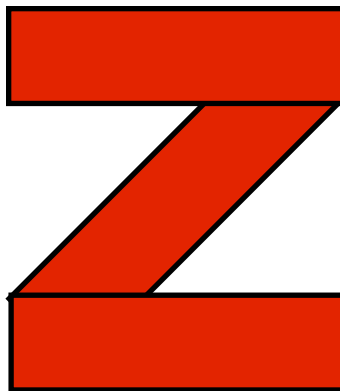
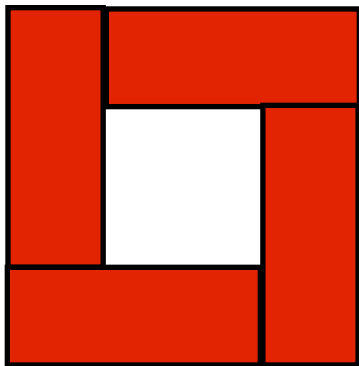
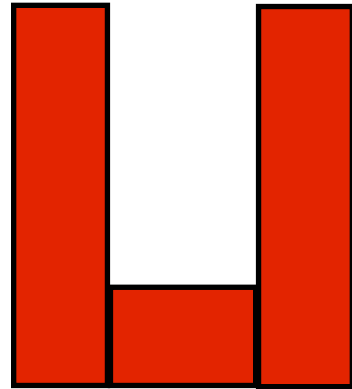
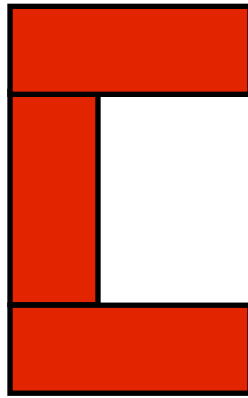
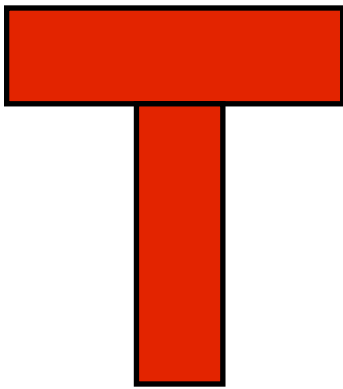
As a student makes a letter correctly made you can mark in on a record sheet or write their name on it and post it to a display board in class. Try using wrapping paper in a nice pattern for the letters. IT MAKES A GREAT DISPLAY.

Things I like about this project.

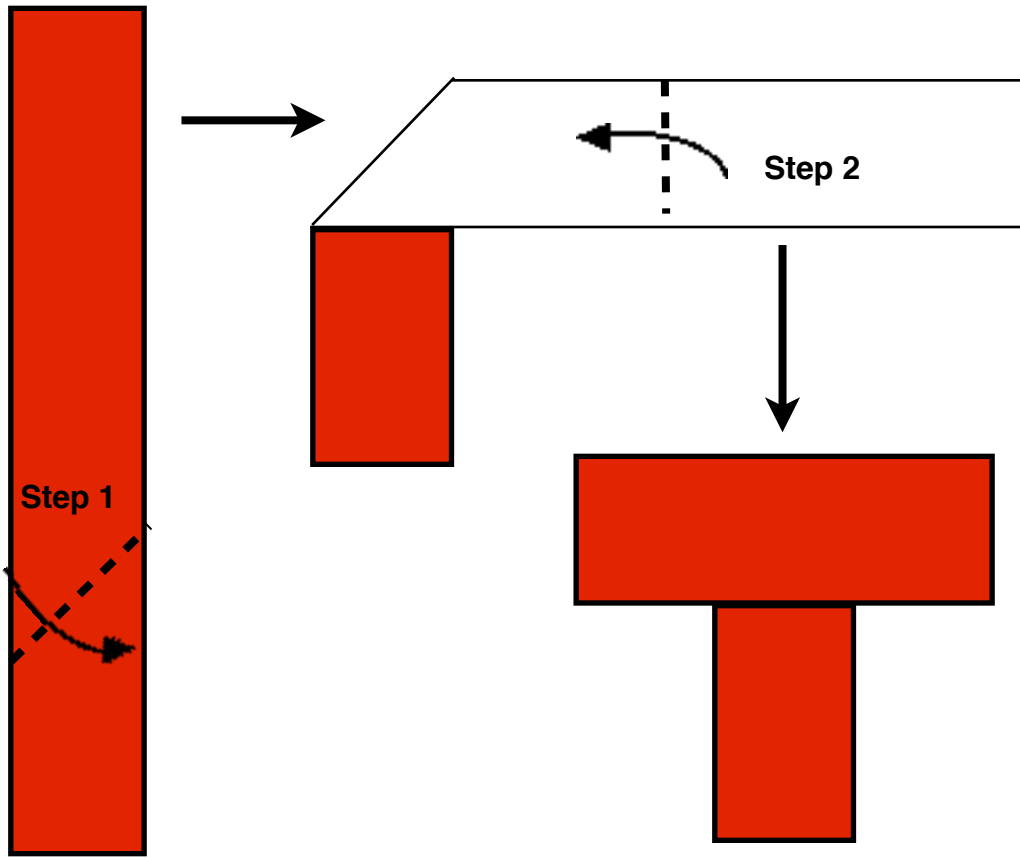
1. The process is self checking in most cases.
2. The completed letter can be unfolded and others can see where the folds were made.
3. The proportions within a letter may not be correct and this allows you to discuss proportions.
4. The proportions between letters may not be correct and this allows you to discuss scale.
5. Even if they “look up the answer on the internet” they have to master reading a plan and convert that to a hands on process and produce a letter of their own.

Use the rules given above to fold each of the following letters.

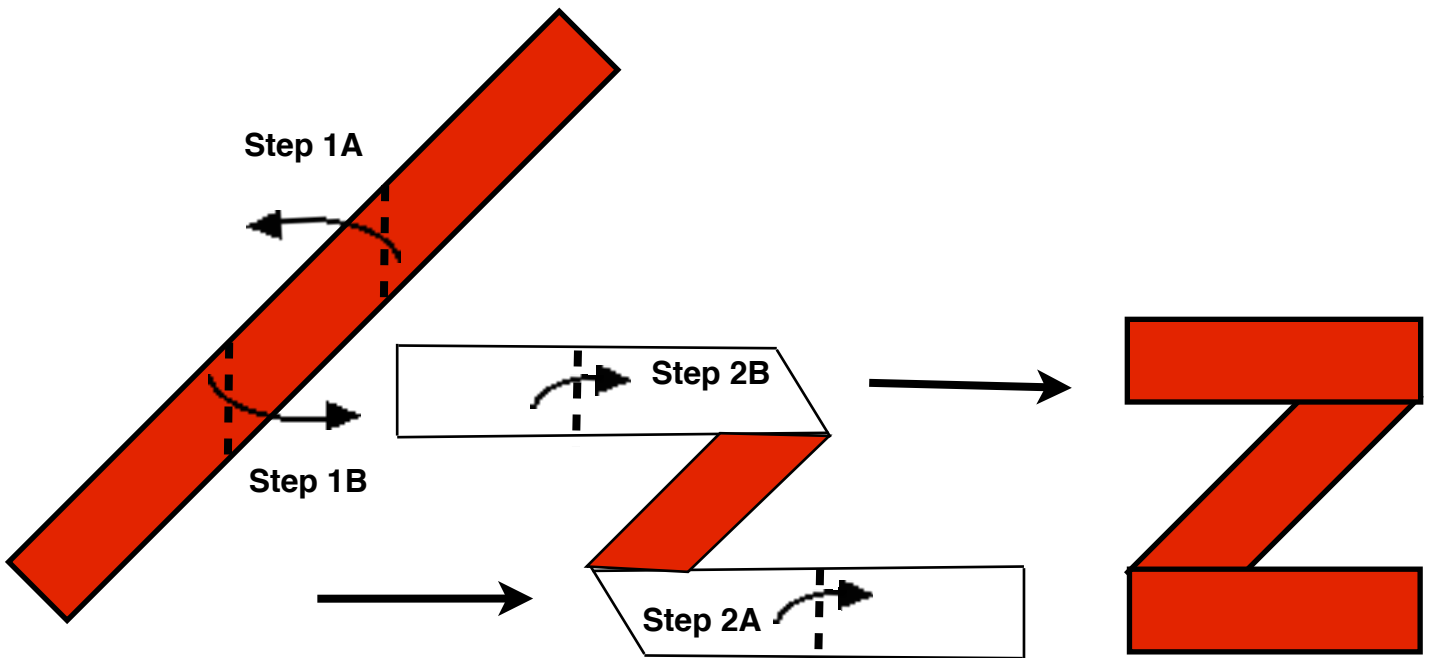
Use paper that is white on one side and colored on the other.



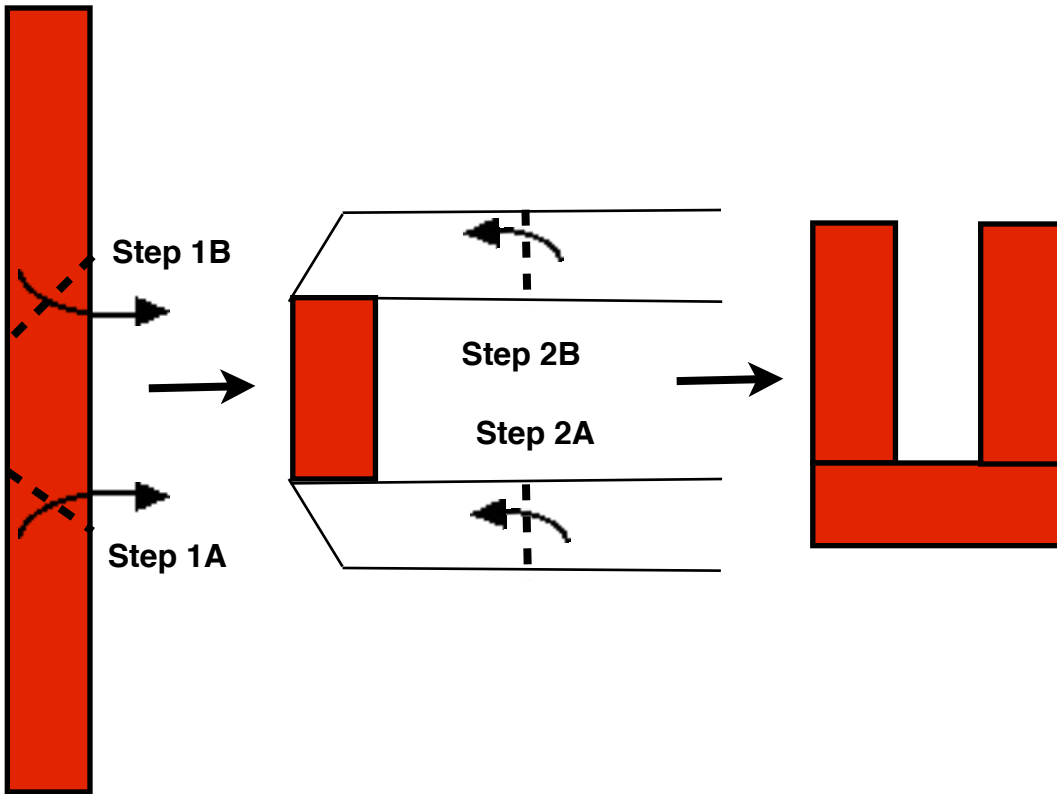
Letter T



The Letter Z

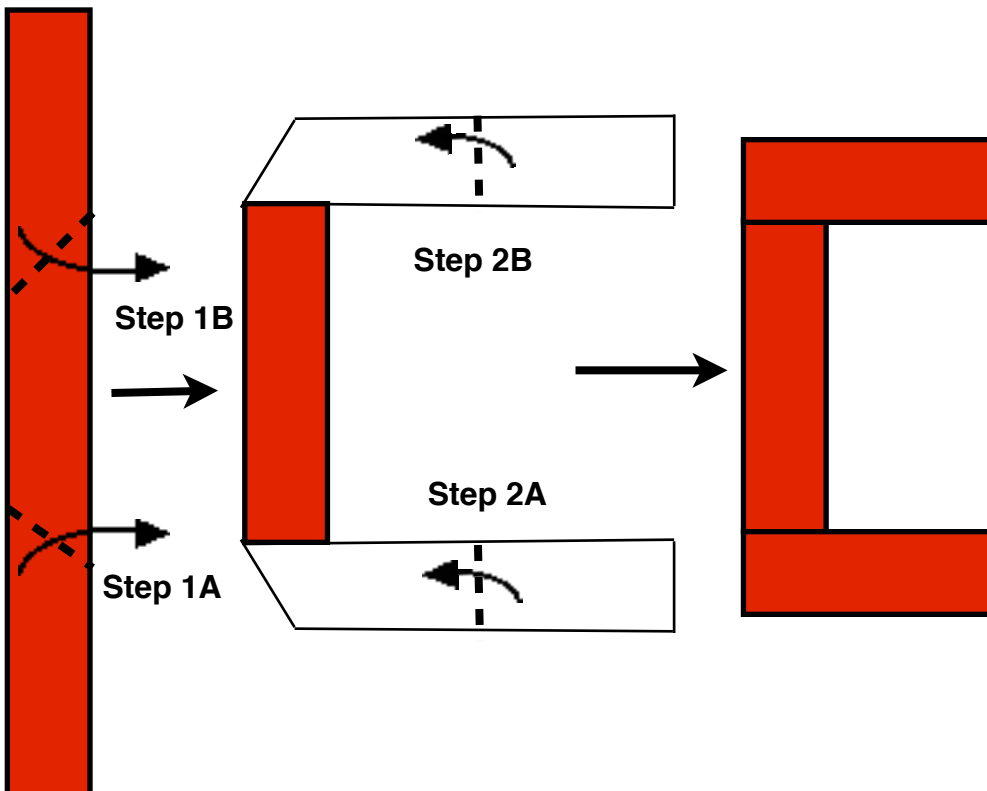


The letter U

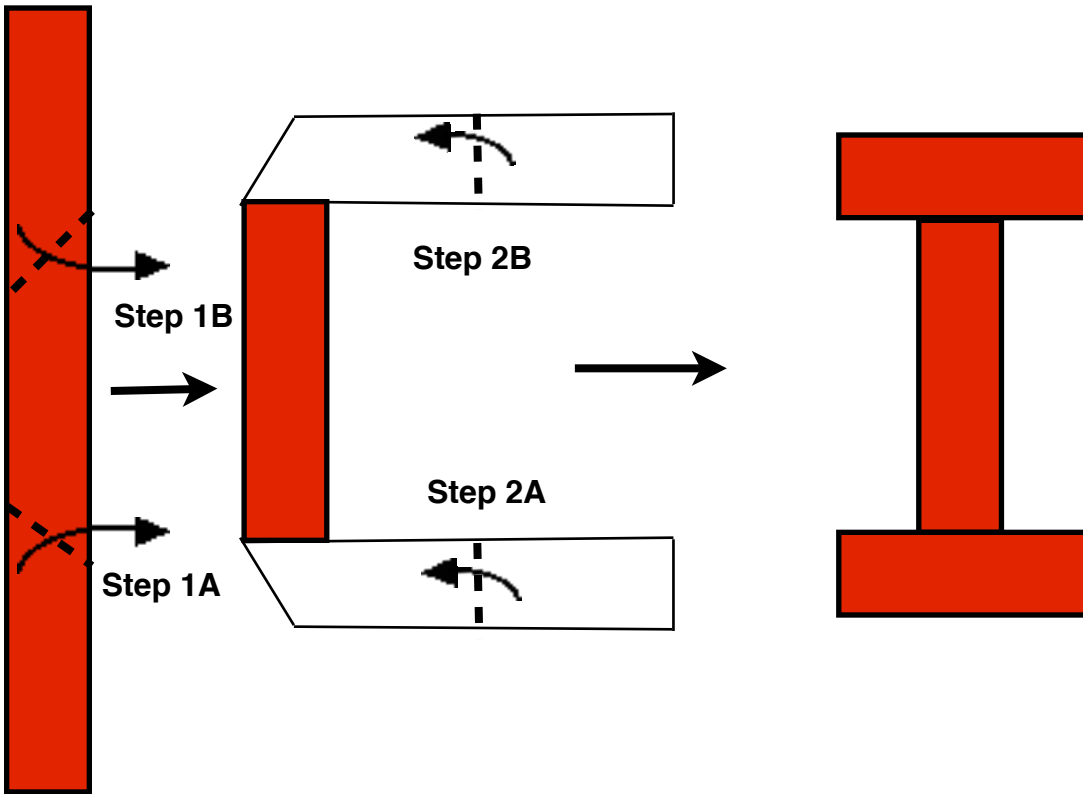


The Letter C

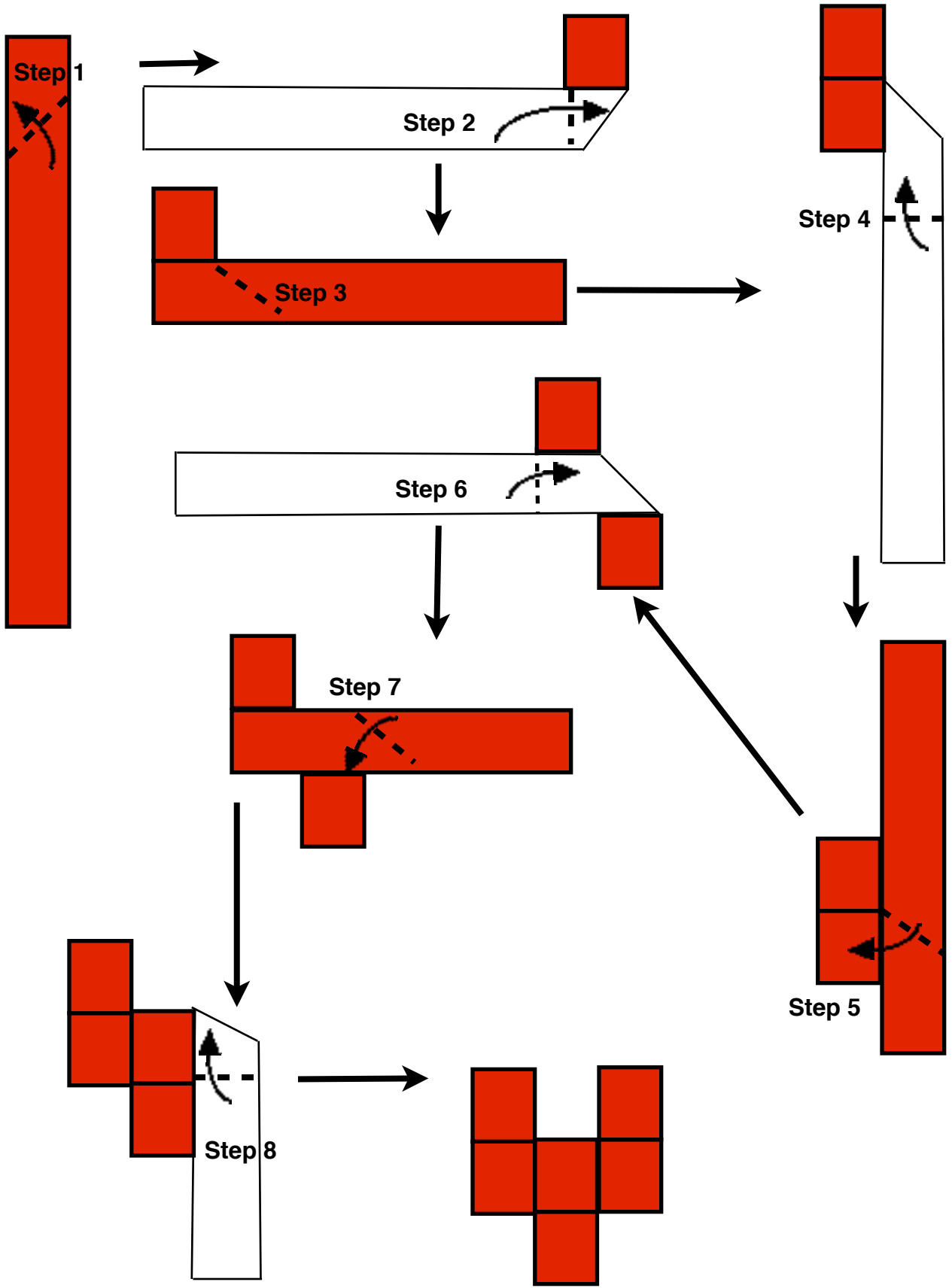
Note: Students will think the letters C and U are the same. They have the same folds but the scale of the parts are different. You could not rotate a C and have it look like a U.



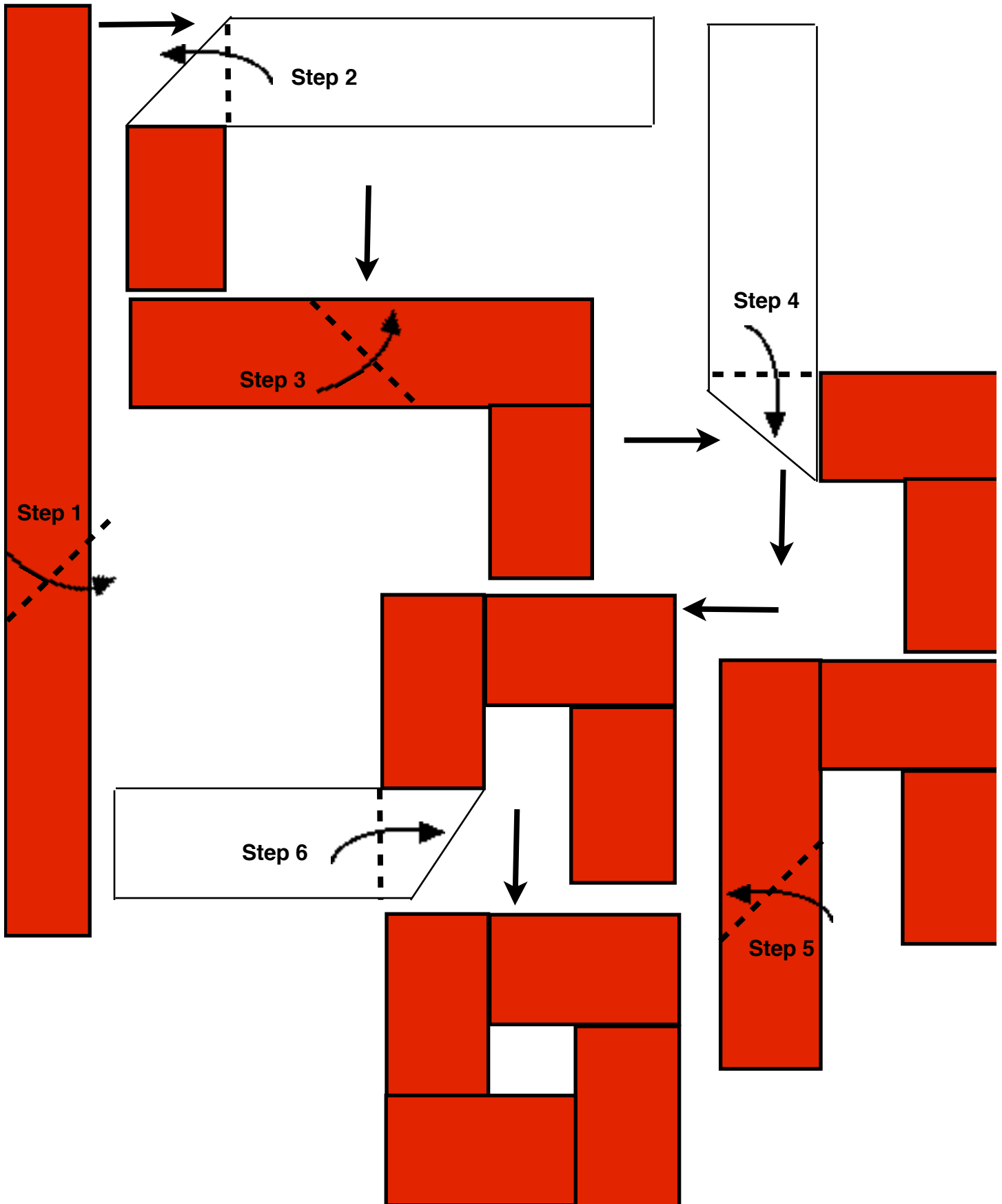
Letter I



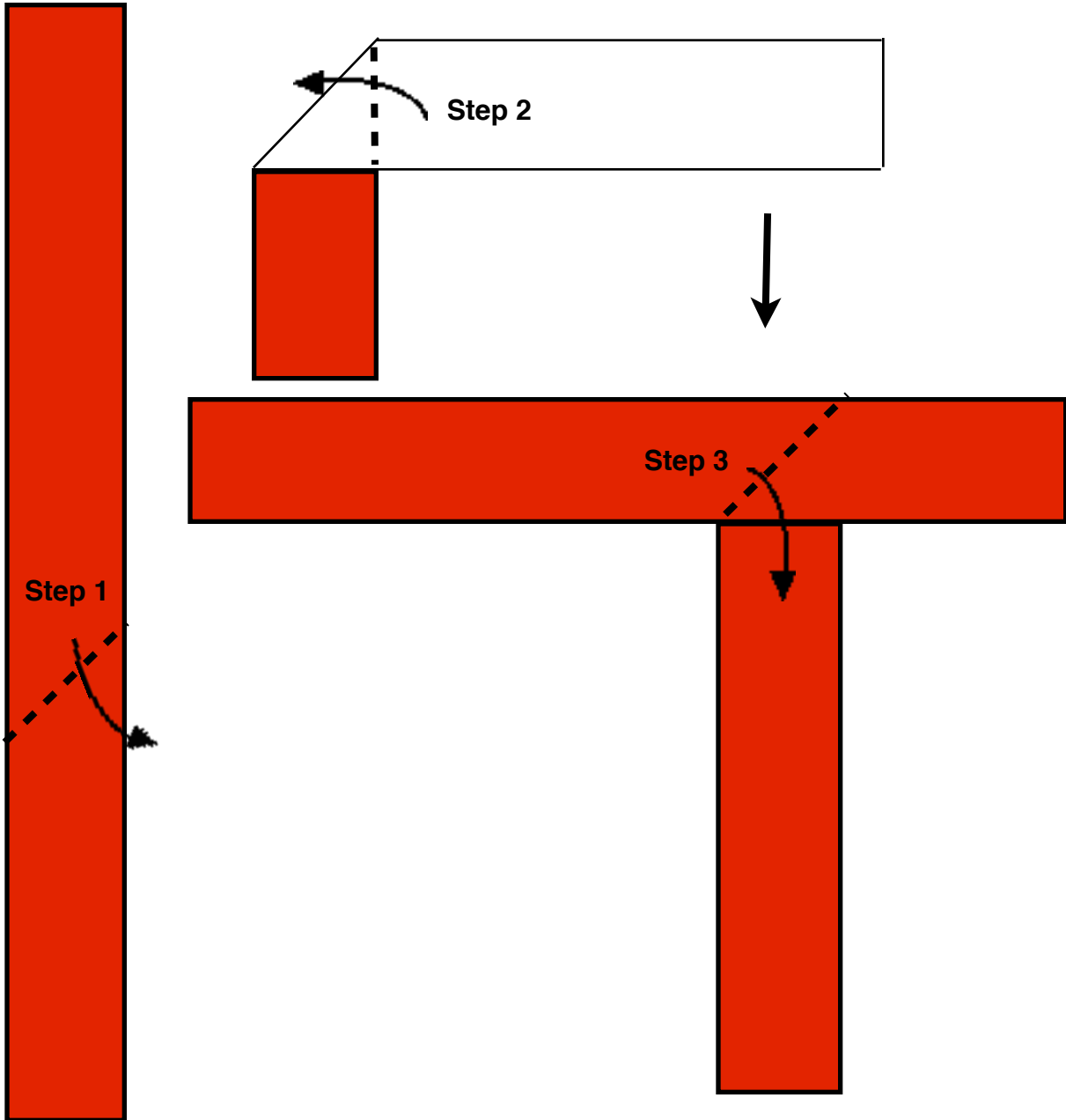
Letter Y



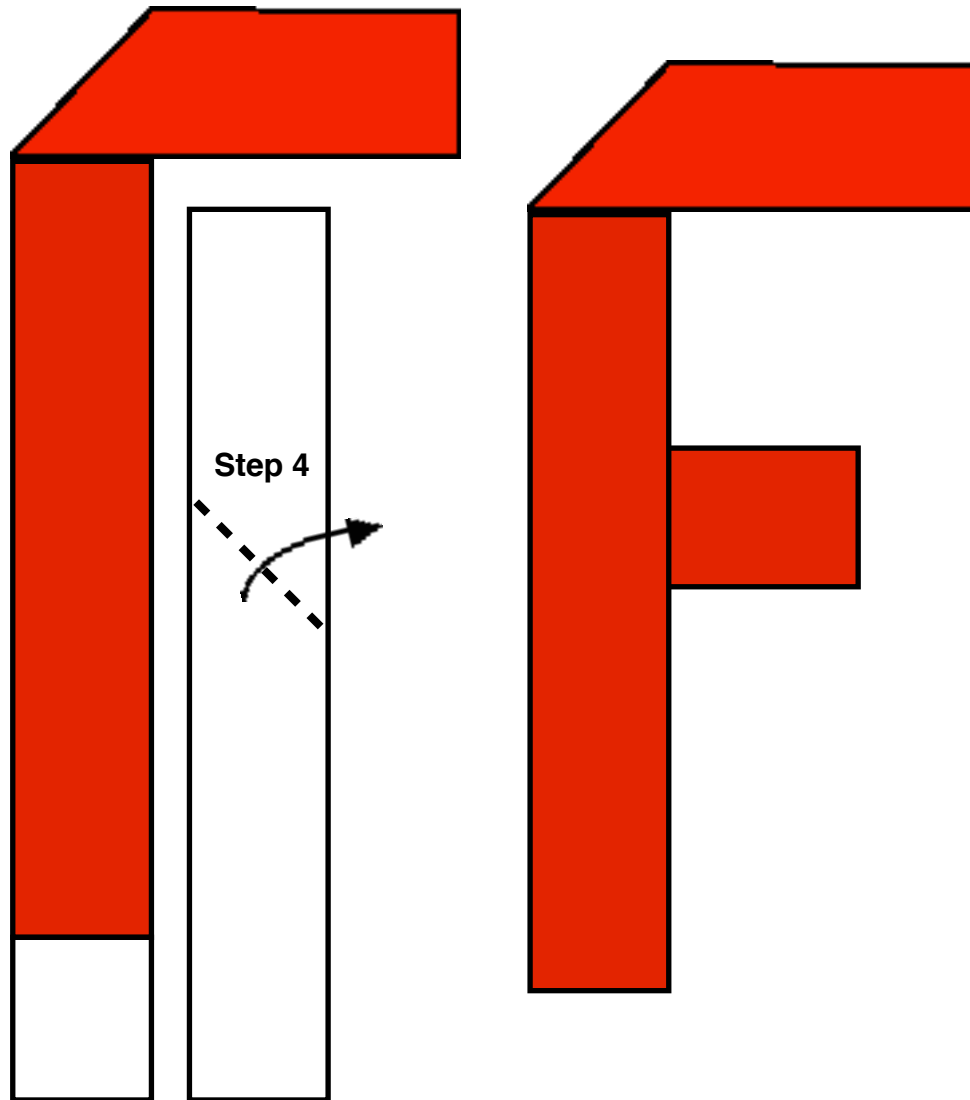
Letter O



The Letter F

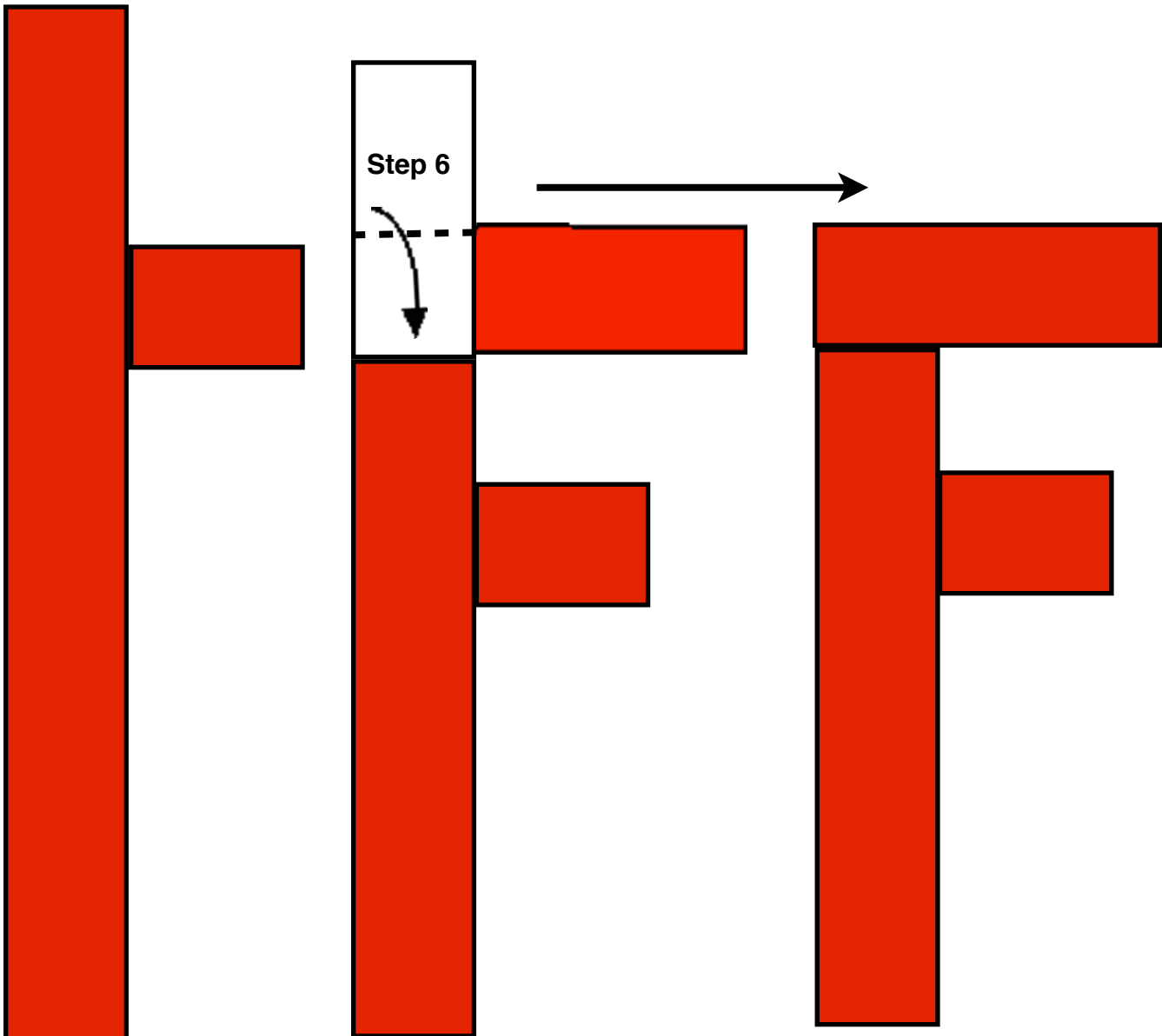


The Letter F continued



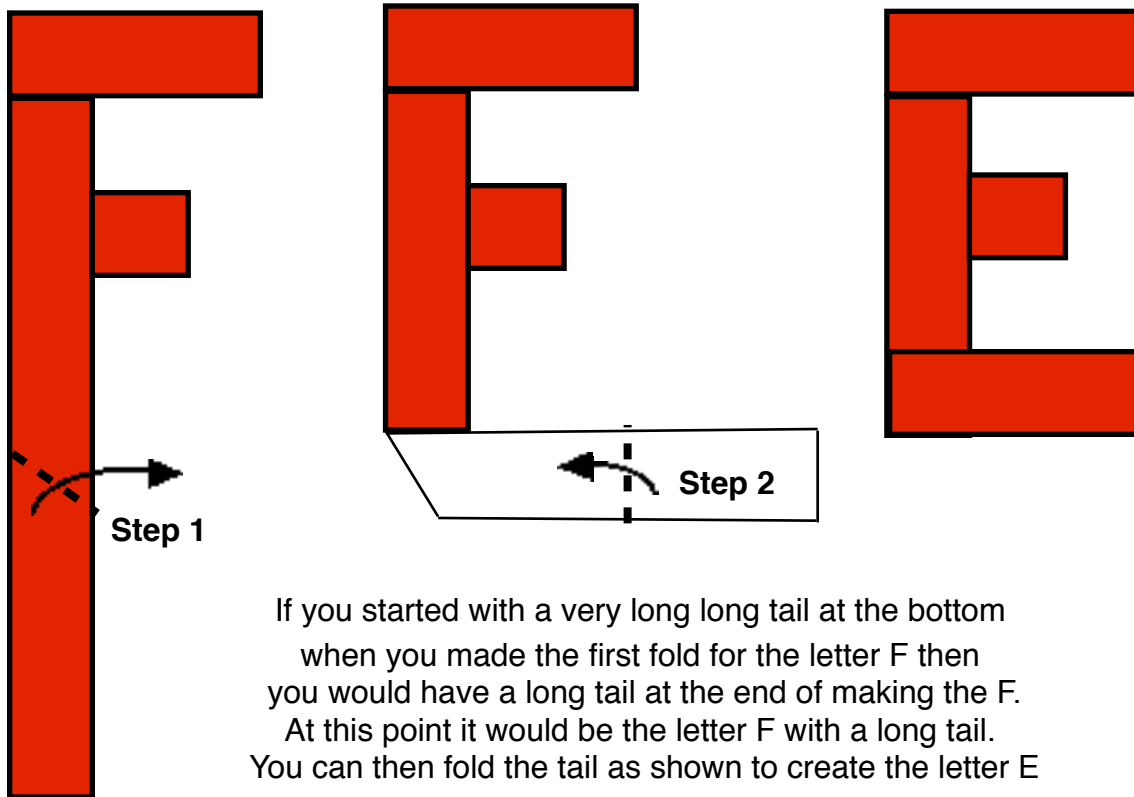
The white strip is behind the red strip but sticks out a bit. The white strip is flipped about the dotted line to form the lower bar of the F

The Letter F continued

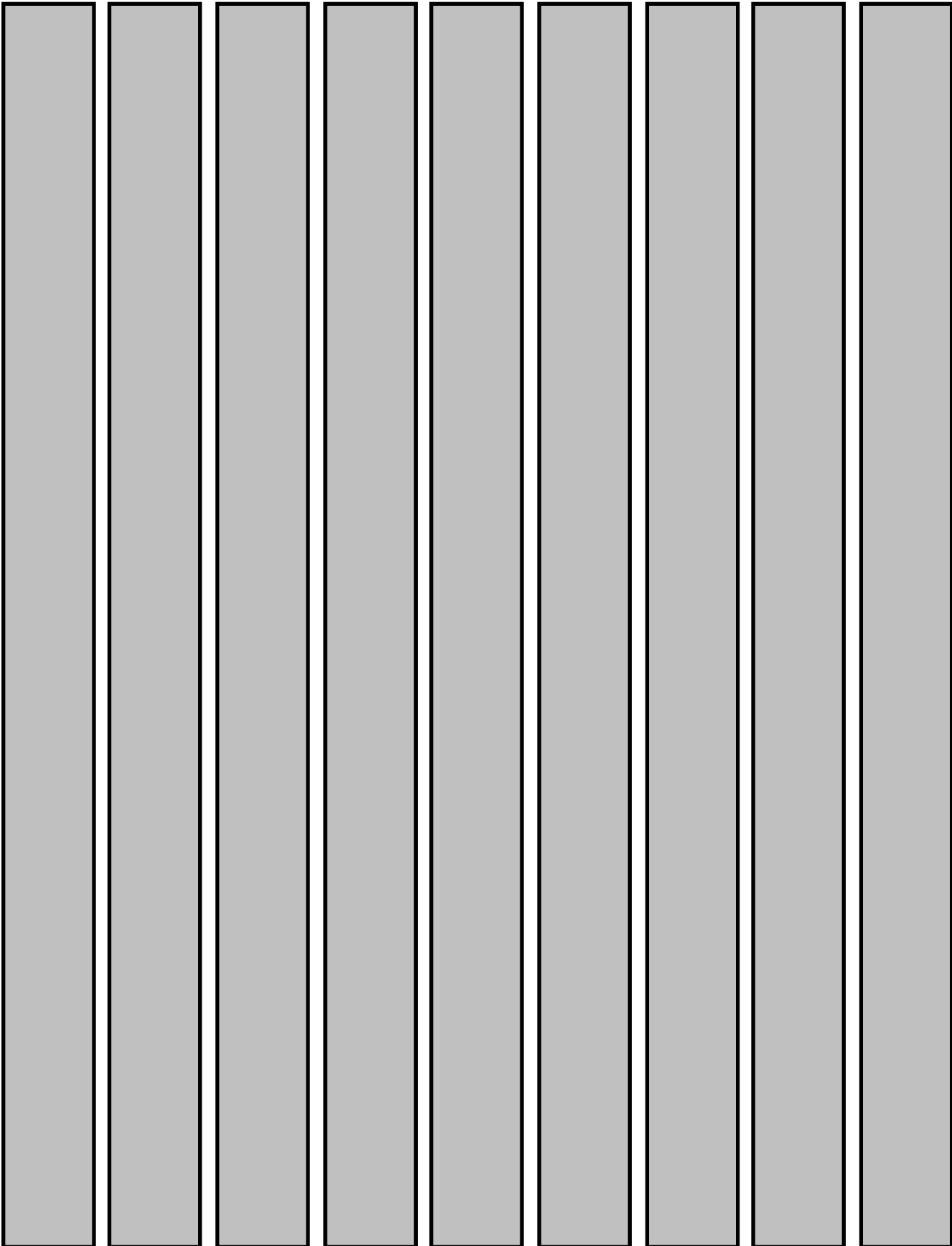


If you started with a long tail at the bottom when you made the first fold then you can fold the tail up behind the letter F and then back down in front to square off the top

The Letter E based on the letter F instructions



Strips in Grey and White for a Black and White Printer



Strips in Red for a Color Printer

