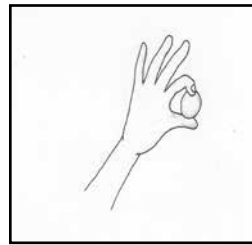


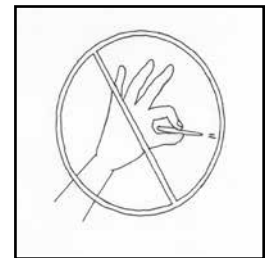
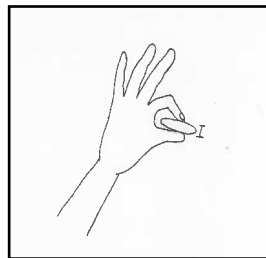
Cuneiform Writing Sheet

The key to making the cuneiform symbols is holding the Play Doh and stylus properly. Follow these steps to write like a professional scribe.

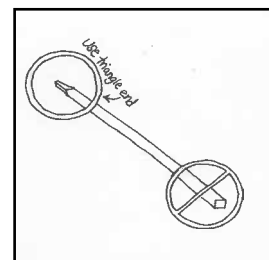
1. Roll the Play Doh in your hands to make a ball.



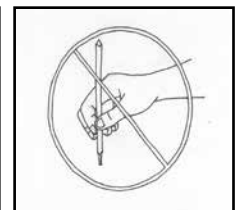
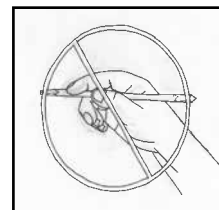
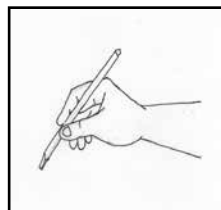
2. Flatten the Play Doh into a round tablet by pressing it between your palms. Look at the school tablet artifact to see how thick it should be. If it is too thin (like a pancake), it will be very difficult to do the writing.



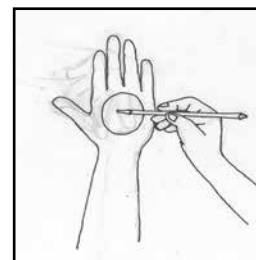
3. Pick up your stylus. You will see that one end is a square and the other is a triangle. You will be writing with the triangle end. All scribes were right-handed, so hold the stylus in your right hand. (Left-handers, you will be just fine. It isn't hard.)



4. Position the stylus as though it were a pencil in your hand, tilted to a 45% angle above the Play Doh.



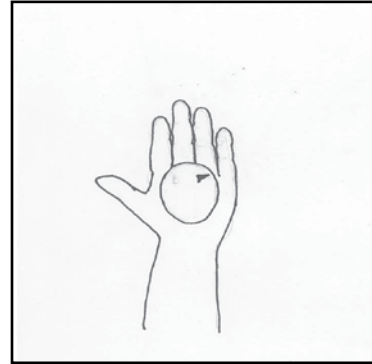
5. Your left hand, which is holding the clay, should be flat and have the fingers pointing out. The stylus should be at a right angle to your left hand.



Turn the paper over to see how to write the symbols in the clay.

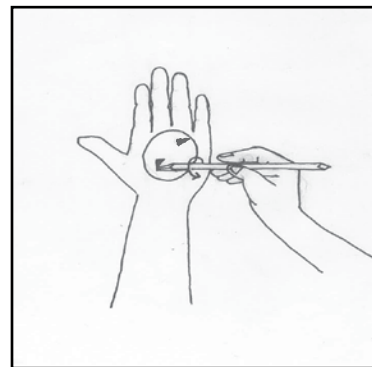
To make a horizontal wedge:

Make sure one of the points of the triangle is facing down towards the clay. Press the stylus into the clay and then lift it up. You will leave a long triangle that has the skinny end pointing to the right.



To make a vertical wedge:

Start exactly the same way as when you made the horizontal wedge by pressing a point into the clay. Before you lift the stylus from the clay, roll it toward you just a tiny bit so that part of a flat edge of the triangle goes into the clay. This rolling makes the skinny tail that points towards the bottom of the tablet.



Now that you learned how to make the symbols, write the word for “lion” (below) on your tablet. This word is in an ancient language called Akkadian.

