Lesson Plan: Lab Safety and Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

Safety Demonstration Script (adapted from Flinn’s Laboratory Safety Challenge)

Overview
The desk used for the demonstration should be cluttered with papers and bottles with dyed water and vinegar in them (vinegar will be labeled) and various lab tools.

The demonstrator should follow the procedures outlines below. NOTE: Dialogue is highlighted in red text. It helps if the demonstrator narrates what they are doing in case students cannot see.

Demonstration Procedures

- When entering the lab, grab a pair of goggles and wear them around your neck or on your forehead (not over your eyes).
- Fumble through the pile of papers to locate your “procedure”.
- Fumble around through the mess on the desk for a container of white powder.
- “Not sure what this is but it should work.”
- “Let’s see, I need 25 g of this” pour the white powder directly onto the balance. Take a little bit and put it back into the container with your hands or just tip the balance over into the container and make a mess. “28 grams….close enough”.
- Scoop the white powder with your hands into a beaker or dump it from the balance straight into the beaker.
- Take a drink from the mug while you are working (or, better yet, pour some water from one your “chemical” bottles into the mug and pretend to drink that).
- Add some water without measuring to your white powder beaker. Swirl the beaker to mix in the water. Spill it and don’t clean it up.
- Pour more white powder directly into the beaker without measuring. Add some more water and stir again with a thermometer.
- Pick up a bottle of water and sniff the contents directly. Act like it smells very strong. “Wow that burns!” or “Whew that stinks!”
- Act like you are going to light your bunsen burner and open the gas valve (the gas to the room will be off). Look for your matches and when you can’t find them, move on without shutting your gas off.
- Haphazardly measure vinegar into a graduated cylinder while holding it at face level.
- Pour the contents of your beaker into the graduated cylinder and let it bubble up all over the desk.
- Walk out of the classroom/lab without cleaning anything.

NOTE: It is important that the demonstrator does not clean up before leaving because this is another lab violation. The teacher can make a big deal about having to clean up the mess for added dramatic effect!