



Consultative Judging of a 4-H Project Exhibit

A Message to 4-H Member About Consultative Judging

4-H events and fairs are often used to provide youth with opportunities to have their work judged against a set of standards. The evaluation of an exhibit should be a positive and motivating part of the 4-H experience. To plan, practice, and present a finished product is to “learn by doing.” The exhibit is not an end in itself, nor does it illustrate all the learning that has taken place during the 4-H year.

Consultative judging brings 4-H members and judges together to evaluate project exhibits. It provides a unique opportunity for young people to learn from the experiences and knowledge of a judge. Consultative judging involves one-to-one communication in which the judge and 4-H member talk directly with each other. As such, parents/guardians should not communicate for the young person unless special accommodations are necessary and arranged ahead of time.

An important goal of 4-H is to teach skills to young people that they can use now, as a youth, and in later life. Standards of excellence help 4-H'ers evaluate the skills they are learning. Standards of excellence can be useful for products (skirts, cookies, tomatoes, livestock, etc.) and skills (speaking, decision making, etc.).

The Danish System

The Danish system of judging is a method of evaluation where an exhibit or process is evaluated against a set of standards, and recognition is awarded on the degree to which the standard has been met by each 4-H member. The standards of excellence are often printed on a judge's scorecard, and allows for the exhibit to be judged on one's own merit, and not in comparison with others in the class. The following ribbons apply:

WHITE: Fair, denotes much improvement needed. Fails to meet minimum standards.

RED: Good, some improvements needed. Meets minimum standards.

BLUE: Excellent, minor improvements needed. Exceeds minimum standards.

PURPLE: Superior, outstanding on all standards.



Possible questions from a Judge:

- How did you improve your skills?
- Did you enjoy working on this project? Why?
- What was the easiest...(or most difficult)?
- Where did you learn how to...?
- Why did you choose this?
- Next time, you may want to consider...
- Who gave you help with the project?
- I noticed you... (or) I could see you felt....
- How does this exhibit fit into your project?
- What were your goals for this project?
- You really did a good job!
- What would you like to do next year?
- You should feel proud because...
- It would be helpful if...
- Tell me more about...



Local Contact Information

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director of K-State Research and Extension, Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts.

4H1160 June 2021