



# 4-H Demonstration and Illustrated Talk Tips

## **Interested in doing a 4-H demonstration or illustrated talk?**

A 4-H demonstration is a good way for a 4-H'er to teach others. It is "knowing how", "showing how" and "telling how" you make or do something step by step, from beginning to end. Posters and visuals are used. A 4-H illustrated talk gives information about a subject and uses visuals and/or a PowerPoint to explain the subject. Unlike a demonstration, the work is not performed before your eyes and there is not a finished product resulting from the presentation.

## **4-H demonstrations and illustrated talk time requirements:**

- Cloverbuds, Juniors, and Intermediates: 3-12 minutes
- Seniors: 5-12 minutes

## **Guidelines for 4-H demonstrations and illustrated talks:**

- No use of living vertebrates (i.e., fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals) are allowed.
- Team demonstrations consist of two youth from the same 4-H age division.
- Posters should be easy to read and support the message of the demonstration.
- Participants must provide all equipment and supplies for their demonstration.
- Participants are responsible for all aspects of their preparations, set up, and take down of their demonstration.
- State qualifiers are Senior age youth who earned a blue ribbon at the district level for their 4-H demonstration.

## **What are the steps to a blue-ribbon demonstration or illustrated talk?**

### **Step 1: Choose a topic or activity**

Choosing a topic can be challenging, yet fun. Be sure to choose a topic you are passionate about, and others will find interesting. Once you choose a topic, you will need to narrow the subject to one main idea or theme. Titles should be "catchy" and draw the attention of your audience.

## **Step 2: Write the script**

Review the 4-H Demonstration and Illustrated Talk score sheet while planning your presentation.

### **There are three parts to your script.**

INTRODUCTION-Sets the stage for your presentation...Make it powerful!

- Open with a captivating introduction that keeps the audience curious for more information. This could be a question "Have you ever....", famous quote, interesting statement/fact "Last year, youth in Florida...", paint a word picture (Picture this...), or historical/resource reference "The Times Union reported...".
- Early in the speech, find an appropriate place to introduce yourself. Be sure to include your name, county, and years in 4-H, and 4-H Club.
- Tell what you are going to demonstrate "I am going to show you how to...".
- Explain why you chose this subject "I chose this demonstration because...".

BODY-Time for show and tell.

- List in order the steps that will be shown.
- List the equipment and materials you will be using.
- Show and tell, step by step, how you are going to demonstrate your topic. Consider how you will display materials and use the equipment during the demonstration.

SUMMARY-Time to summarize your information.

- Be concise and to the point.
- Show the finished product or result of your demonstration.
- Repeat the important points. " In summary, today I have shown you ...."
- Site references used and be sure to include 4-H curriculum/materials/experiences.

## **Step 3: Create a supply list**

Gather equipment and supplies such as water, tablecloth, paper towels, garbage bag, extension cord, finished product, container to hold equipment, something to carry supplies/equipment to the table, and anything else you need to perform your demonstration.

#### **Step 4: Create visual aids**

Gather materials and create the aids. Determine what you need to use: projector, laptop, screen, easel. If you need any of these, contact the 4-H office.

#### **Step 5: Lay out the work area**

Draw your table from overhead so that you can see where you will place everything. Arrange the practice area using supplies and visuals. Be sure to set up an example and view it from several places in the room so that you can see what the audience and judges will see.

#### **Step 6: Practice with and without materials**

Practice, practice, practice. Pay attention to your time. Do at least one dress rehearsal starting from setting up the area, all the way through clean-up.

#### **Step 7: Demonstrate or present the talk**

Dress for the occasion. You can wear something reflecting what you are presenting. Some examples are an apron if you are cooking or a fishing hat or shirt if you are demonstrating how to cast a reel. Be neat in appearance. You can wear 4-H clothing if it is cleaned and ironed. Do not wear jeans unless it matches what you are demonstrating or talking about. Your clothing should not be distracting. While you can dress to match your topic, do not wear something so silly that people focus on your outfit instead of your presentation.

In closing, say "This concludes my demonstration, are there any questions?" Please note that only judges are allowed to ask questions. When answering questions be sure to first rephrase the question before you give your answer. Say, "The question that has been asked is....." and then answer the question.