

The development of young people is our first consideration in 4-H work. It is important that you approach your task as a learning tool for youth. Youth will win and lose throughout their 4-H days. Together, the combination of these will increase confidence and develop character.

Tips for County, and District Events

- Review the event guidelines and score sheet.
- Team demonstrations, both youth should actively participate.
- Time all demonstrations
 - Seniors between 5-12 minutes
 - Juniors & Intermediates between 3-12 minutes
- Write your comments in print (most youth today are not taught cursive)
- Be sure to make constructive comments and avoid open-ended statements.
- Consistency is important!
- Check that you have all areas scored and total.
- If you write description notes (on the score form) to remember the individual presenting, please keep your description generic i.e. color of outfit. Do not use race, gender or size.
- **Judges only** may ask questions at the end of the presentation. The suggested limit of questions is 2 questions per judge.
- Some of you may have a very vague score sheet and others, a judging rubric. We are currently in the process of moving to rubric evaluation sheets, which are helpful to the youth and judge. Not everyone is a BLUE AWARD. If the score doesn't reflect it, that is ok.
- Judging standards increase with age and ability. Example: *A Junior's posters may be hand written by the youth and not that presentable, however, it was **the youth's effort** and not a parent doing it, so consider this when judging.*

Constructive Written and Verbal Comments

Key areas are:

1. Use the child's first name whenever possible.
2. Use personal pronouns.
3. Be Positive. Focus on "Do" instead of "Don't". Avoids absolutes such as "always," "never," or "ever."
4. Be Specific. Evaluate the act – Not the person.
5. Be Encouraging, Thoughtful and Sincere.
6. Give Praise as well as criticism.
7. Avoid 'double-edged' compliments. *If you say that a comment is double-edged, you mean that it has two meanings, so that you are not sure whether the person who said it is being critical or is giving praise.*
8. Sign your name.

A chart with preferred comments follows:



Key Areas	Preferred Comments
1. Use the child's first name	<i>I enjoyed your demonstration, Mary.</i>
2. Use personal pronouns	<i>I think...I feel..., In my opinion...,I suggest...,I like...,I appreciate...</i>
3. Be Positive	<i>Practice working a little faster next time. I know how hard it is speaking in front of an audience. Practice giving your demonstrations in front of people whenever you can to gain confidence.</i>
4. Be Specific	<i>Larger letters on poster would be easier to read from a distance.</i>
5. Be Encouraging, Thoughtful and Sincere	<i>I enjoyed judging your demonstration. Keep up the good work! You really made my job fun!</i>
6. Give praise as well as criticism	Try the "Oreo Cookie Approach" Give a positive comment, then a suggestion and then close with another positive comment. <i>Your voice is clear and distinct, Bob. Try speaking a little slower next time. You have a great voice for public speaking! Nice posture and eye contact.</i>
7. Avoid 'double-edged' compliments	Instead of 'That was a great loaf of bread, for a boy.' use <i>That was a great loaf of bread!</i>
8. Sign your name	Qualified judges have confidence in their ability and are willing to stand behind their decision. <i>It was a great pleasure being your judge. Mr. Thomas</i>