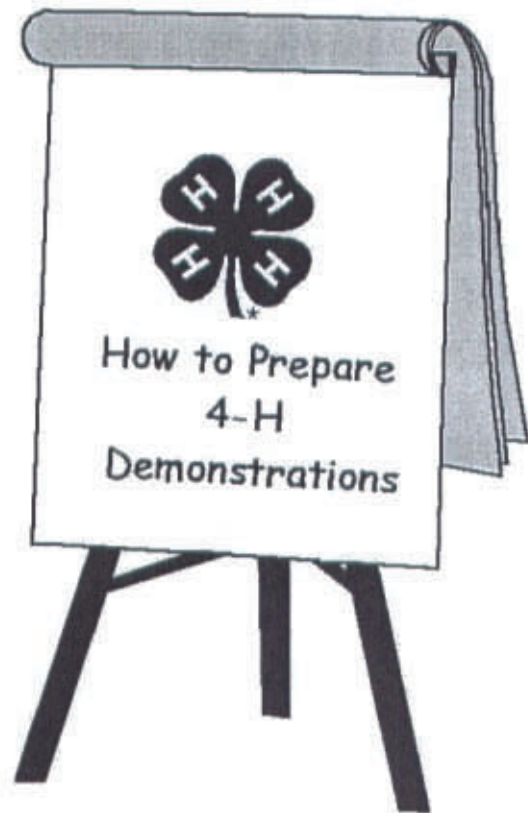


Rensselaer County 4-H Demonstration Guidelines



Demonstrations (otherwise known as Public Presentations)

Why should I do a demonstration?

4-H Demonstrations have been proven to be one of the best ways to develop poise, confidence, and leadership skills.

4-H'ers who have given Demonstrations find that:



- ◆ They learn to speak with ease in front of groups of people.
- ◆ They learn to organize their thoughts so they can get their point across.
- ◆ They learn to think and develop reasoning skills.
- ◆ They can tell people what they have learned in 4-H (and in other areas).
- ◆ They have learned a great deal more about the subject they have chosen.
- ◆ They become poised and self-confident.
- ◆ They can use this experience in their school work and in extra-curricular activities.

Time Guidelines

Cloverbud: 1–3 minutes

1st year: 3–5 minutes

2nd–4th years: 3–8 minutes

5th year and up: 10–20 minutes

Experienced Demonstrators serve as Teen Evaluators

Prepare for your Demonstration

Decide on your topic

- ◆ There are so many possibilities (this is probably the most difficult part of doing a demonstration).
- ◆ Pick a topic YOU like! The best demonstrations are the ones you WANT to do.
- ◆ Keep it simple. You can go into a lot of detail with a simple idea, and you don't have to worry about leaving information out.
- ◆ Prepare your presentation.
- ◆ Gather your information.
- ◆ Prepare your posters.
- ◆ Develop an outline. *
 - You should have an INTRODUCTION (a question, quotation, or statistics that arouse interest in your topic—something that draws the audience into your presentation)
 - Your DEMONSTRATION or PRESENTATION (explain a topic);
 - and a CONCLUSION (sum up what you explained). You should also ask if anyone has any questions (be prepared to “think on your feet”).

Practice

- ◆ Practice what you are going to say.
- ◆ Practice what you are going to do. This is very important. Make sure you can handle your equipment, ingredients, diagrams, models, or posters comfortably.

* Remember the “Rule of Three”

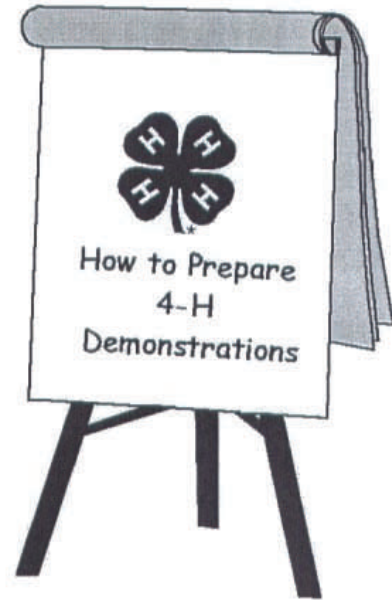
1. Tell your audience what you are going to tell them.
2. Tell them.
3. Tell them what you told them.

Posters

- ◆ Use LARGE print.
- ◆ Print your key points in proper sequence (you can use your posters instead of note cards).
- ◆ You may print your information on computer.
- ◆ Attach the pages to poster board or foam core board.
- ◆ Foam core board is more expensive than poster board, but it is sturdier, easier to handle, and can be re-used. (You can staple your information to the foam core board and easily remove the pages for your next demonstration.)
- ◆ Use color for variety.
- ◆ You can draw your own illustrations.
- ◆ You may use pictures. If your photos are too small to be seen easily you can print the photo on a full sheet of paper using a color printer or you could have a colored copy made.
- ◆ Use simple diagrams or illustrations.
- ◆ You can have diagrams "blown up" on a copy machine (just like the photos).

Your Evaluation

- ◆ This experience should be POSITIVE and MEANINGFUL.
- ◆ Listen to the comments from your evaluators.
- ◆ Ask questions — don't be afraid to question any comment you don't understand.
- ◆ Review your written evaluation — What can be done next year? What should be continued? What should be changed?



Remember the 4-H motto —
"Make the Best Better"

Use your evaluation to make your next demonstration even better.

You don't have to wait until next year!

Why not try your demonstration again at the Fair?