

4-H Project Achievement Presentations for Juniors & Seniors

Things to Consider from a Judge's Point of View



Appearance is 10%.

- In most cases, judges are looking for a presenter who is dressed neatly and appropriately.
- Think about the topic at hand and is there an appropriate dress for the presentation?
- If you speak of dress in any way in your presentation be sure your dress is in keeping with the statements you make.
- Remove any distracting jewelry, change, cell phones or other items before you speak.
- Remember, too, judges want to see you. Be sure your hair isn't needing to be pushed out of your eyes or your hiding behind your posters.

Visual Aids are 10% and include anything to illustrate your point.

- Be sure that everything you have out is used in the presentation. Nothing is added to the table just to look good.
- One poster is rarely adequate for Junior or Senior presentations.
- A cover poster is a great way to introduce your topic but should not be the only poster. It can often return at the end of your presentation to support your conclusion
- If you are recycling a poster or exhibit from another competition, be sure it fits the current presentation and is not obviously recycled.
- Be sure the visuals do not contain too much text or text that is too small to read from across the room.
- Visuals should not include the presentation word for word. Stronger presentations feature the main points on the posters with additional details provided in the talk.
- If you have tabletop visuals, make sure you use them and that they relate to the presentation.
- If you use a second set of posters (even if it's just one additional poster), make sure you have a tabletop easel.
- Always be sure the visuals are spelled correctly.
- Juniors & Senior 4-H'ers may use technology. Carefully, consider if technology such as Powerpoint is the best way to illustrate your point. The presentation is about you and your knowledge not your flashy use of equipment.

Delivery is 10%.

- Practice a more natural delivery. Sounding like a robot with a memorized speech can be distracting.
- It's ok to refer to note cards. Reading too much from posters or cards will hurt your delivery score. Reading hurts because you can't make good eye contact with the audience and leads to a wooden, flat delivery.
- Be sure to make eye contact with every member of the audience, not just the judges.
- Avoid calling attention to your mistakes by saying things like "oops" or "sorry." In many instances, you are the only person who would have known about the mistake had you not called attention to it.
- The more you practice and understand your information the better your delivery will be.

Orderly Progress is 10% and is everything about how your presentation is put together and that it flows well.

- Your presentation should clearly have an introduction, body and conclusion.
- A good introduction lets the audience know what's coming, including what you hope to accomplish. In some instances, it's hard to know why a point is included.
- It's appropriate to talk about different aspects of the main topic, just be sure to include a statement about how it relates to the rest of the presentation.
- You should be able to hear in the presentation the introduction, the main ideas and the conclusion.
- Be sure to have a summary and don't abruptly end.

Accuracy of Information is 15% and one of the most important areas of the scorecard.

- The more you know about your topic the better you're going to do. It's easier to talk about something you know a lot about. Be sure you pick something that you are comfortable presenting.
- The information should be accurate and appropriate. At times, 4-H'ers use information that it is popular but not necessarily research based. Information must be supported by facts that are from a reputable source.
- Often information is adequate in the presentation but a participant is not able to answer questions relative to the presentation. It is always better to admit you don't know an answer than guess.
- When you're using facts and figures, look for Georgia information when you can rather than just the national trends.

Coverage of Subject is 25% and the largest section of the scorecard.

- The shorter your presentation, the lower your score in this area will be. A junior or senior level presentation can not be made in five minutes.
- Be sure you have read the project objectives. You may need to help your judges see how your project meets those objectives by adding a sentence or two to the introduction and conclusion.
- Think of ways you can expand your topic to more thoroughly cover the topic.

Knowledge of Subject is 15%.

- How you answer your questions, how at ease you appear with your presentation, how familiar you are with your topic all influence your knowledge score.
- Be sure you have practiced and researched all of your information.
- If you even scratch the surface of a topic, the judge can ask you a question.
- Be sure you are well versed outside your presentation itself in that topic.

Time limit is 5% and only effected if you go over the time allotted for your area. Remember if your presentation is too short you will be docked in an area much larger than 5%...coverage of subject.

Keep in Mind:

- Pick a topic you are interested in and familiar with. If you like your topic, it shows.
- Remember controversial or "hot topics" may be great but they can backfire, too. Think carefully before using these topics and be sure your facts are researched based.
- Practice with your visuals so that you are familiar moving your items and not just with giving your speech.
- Volunteer often to talk about your topic so it becomes more natural to you.

- Listen to suggestions from others. If you've been judged in the past the judge may have some tips for you.