



Manitoba 4-H Council Inc.

4-H Communication Competitions Tips

Visual Presentations with Pizzazz!

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When doing a visual presentation, you should choose a topic that's of interest to you and is different than what's normally done. Some examples include sports such as judo or ringette, hobbies such as gardening or painting, interests such as ballet and juggling or demonstrate some aspect of your 4-H project.

Be careful about using ideas that are too young for you. Judges look for age-related topics just the same as in public speaking. Make sure you can fully demonstrate your topic easily and clearly within the time frame. You should also research your subject thoroughly so that you're comfortable with the information and can answer any questions.

When choosing visual aids, keep in mind they should enhance your presentation, not overwhelm or detract from it. Remember to coordinate speaking with the use of your visual aids. There are many different types of visual aids to choose from such as posters, slides, overhead projectors, videotapes, models, or handouts.

In preparing for your visual presentation, not only should your title be catchy, but so should your introduction. You could start with a question or an interesting statement but keep the introduction to only three or four sentences. In a two-person presentation, only one person should give the introduction. You should refer to the title and give your reasons for doing the presentation as well as your name and the club you belong to.

The body of your presentation is the next part to your plan. Decide what information you will give your audience and list the points in logical order. You can then choose what visual aids might be used effectively. For two-person presentations, divide the body into four blocks of information- two for each person. This is less distracting than jumping back and forth between the presenters. After you've written your body of information and prepared your visuals, put actions to it and learn it thoroughly. This will allow you to determine how the actions and visual aids will suit the information.

Make sure your summary ties in with your introduction and that you have a definite conclusion to your presentation. As you practice, have someone listen and ask questions at the end. This will give you practice in restating the question and in being prepared for the right information before you answer. Try to have a catchy sentence that will close your presentation and help the audience and judges remember you.

Remember, you're being watched from the time you get up from your chair and set up until the time you sit down after your presentation. You want everything you say and do to leave a positive impression. Be confident, take a deep breath and smile!