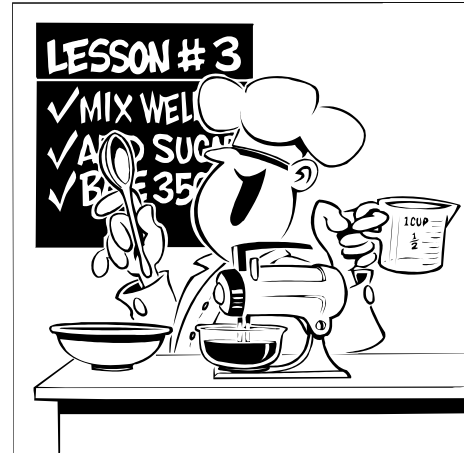


# YOUR 4-H DEMONSTRATION

A 4-H Demonstration is a “show and tell” presentation using posters and other visuals that teaches others something about your project area. When giving a demonstration, 4-H’ers actually make or do something (step by step) and have a finished product to show., or tell how by talking and showing charts , drawings, models or pictures.



## SELECTING A DEMONSTRATION TOPIC

To begin preparing your Demonstration, you must first select a topic. The project area you have chosen is a broad area in which many different topics fit under. You must first narrow down a single topic for your speech. Your demonstration should not be so broad that you can not go into depth on your topic.

For example. If your project area is Dog Care and Training, you need to pick one aspect to talk about such as: types of food and nutritional value of each, importance of exercise, training, grooming, or health problems. Your demonstration should not include all these topics even though they are all included in your project area.

To help narrow down a topic for your demonstration, ask yourself the following questions:

- < Do I already know something about this topic?
- < Am I really interested in it?
- < Can I find enough information about the topic?
- < Can I get excited about it?
- < Is it worth learning about?
- < Can I complete it in a reasonable length of time?
- < Does this topic help me explore a career I am interested in?
- < Is this topic a “hot” topic now?

## PARTS OF A DEMONSTRATION

A demonstration consist of a title and three main parts: Introduction, Body and Conclusion or Summary.

The **TITLE** sets the tone of your demonstration. Sometimes it is easier to choose a title after you have finished writing your speech. Your title should be catchy and make the audience curious. It can be a play on words, funny or a simple statement or question.

In your **INTRODUCTION**, you should make the subject and your purpose clear. Your introduction should be original and brief. Explain what you are going to talk about and why you chose the subject. The introduction should capture the audience’s attention. You could use a



startling statistic, a believe it or not statement, a personal experience, a quote by a famous person, ask a question or throw out a challenge. Your introduction should also include your title. Your introduction should make the audience feel your subject is important, practical and interesting.

The bulk of your demonstration time should be spent on your **BODY**. This is the most important part of your demonstration.

When researching your topic, gather more information than you will need. Then narrow it down to the main points you want to discuss. If you are demonstrating how to do something, tell what is being done, and what this method is being used. It is advisable to have samples of materials in various stages to help illustrate each step of the process. Take nothing for granted. Assume the audience knows nothing about your topic.

Always use your own words. This will help in your presentation score because it's coming from you, not from how someone else expressed their interest. Short quotes are fine to use but give the author credit.

The **CONCLUSION** is as important as the introduction. Summarize the ideas you want remembered the longest. Be original and avoid using such phrases as "in conclusion." A good conclusion will let the audience know you are finished without telling them. Your conclusion should provide a natural stopping place, leave the audience satisfied, leave the main idea in everyone's mind, create a desire for the audience to find out more and tie in with the introduction.

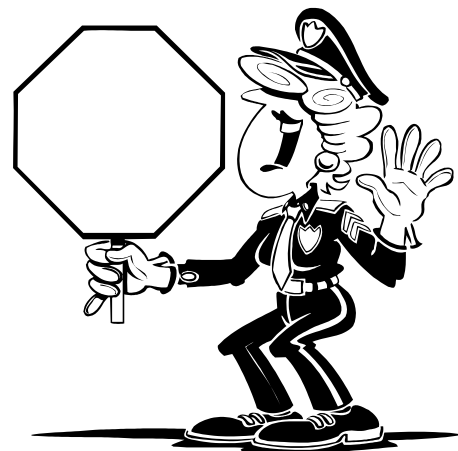
Once completing your demonstration, do not ask the audience if there is any questions and don't say "Thank you for listening to my demonstration." An audience should thank a speaker for presenting a talk or demonstration.

## PLANNING YOUR DEMONSTRATION

Now that you know what a demonstration is and have selected your demonstration topic, you should take the time to outline your demonstration before going any further. An outline will help you stay focused in your demonstration. It will also make writing your speech and determining what visuals to use a lot easier.

The most important aspect of outlining your demonstration is determining the main points you will cover. In general, you will cover three to five main points. Each one of these points will have to be "proved" or explained.

Following is a Demonstration Master Plan that should be completed before your speech is wrote or the first poster is started.



# DEMONSTRATION OUTLINE

## Poster 1: Title Poster

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Work To Appear on Title Poster: \_\_\_\_\_

Poster Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Backgrounds: \_\_\_\_\_ Titles: \_\_\_\_\_ Text: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Poster 2

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction: \_\_\_\_\_

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Main Points:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

## Poster 3

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction: \_\_\_\_\_

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Main Points:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

*(Rule of 3 - you should have 3 posters in addition to your title poster and each poster should have a minimum of three main points)*

**Poster 4**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Points:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Poster 5 (optional)**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Points:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Poster 6 (optional)**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduction: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Points:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion (uses title poster): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*(Rule of 3 - you should have 3 posters in addition to your title poster and each poster should have a minimum of three main points)*

## MAKING GOOD VISUALS

Originality is important when making your visuals. Visuals can be more than just posters and may include equipment relating to the demonstration. But remember, all the visuals you bring to your demonstration must be used. Visuals are suppose to relate to your topic and you should use them or explain them during your demonstration. You need to talk about everything you bring with you.

Don't leave the judges or the audience wondering what something is or why you brought it.



## MAKING POSTERS

Posters make people stop, read and remember. Effective posters attract attention, focus your interest and ideas, and help you remember what you are suppose to say at that point in your demonstration.

Before you can make your posters, you need to have your demonstration written out and in front of you so your can see where you may want to use a poster or visual. Pre-plan or draw your posters out on a smaller sheet of paper . Posters are used to show main ideas or illustrations in your demonstration. Make your messages brief and direct, do not write in sentence form. It is a good idea to do your posters in pencil before using markers or lay everything out before gluing anything down.

Posters are judged on their contribution to the demonstration, not on their professional appearance. However, they should be neat. The following guidelines will help you create good, eye catching posters.

**BALANCE:** Keep the main object or idea near the center of the poster. Don't crowd one side or corner of the poster. A 2" margin on all sides of a poster gives an invisible frame.

**COLORS:** Use darker or brighter colors for the main picture, drawing or lettering. Use lighter or duller colors for backgrounds.

**SIZE AND PROPORTION:** Use Full-Sized Poster Board. Lettering should be large enough to be seen from the back of the room. (2 - 3 inches for titles, 1- 1 ½ inches for other lettering). Maintain proper portions with pictures. For example, don't draw a dog bigger than his house.

**LETTERING:** Check for grammar and spelling before drawing or pasting letters. Always use guidelines to place letters evenly on the poster and keep them centered and straight.

## COLOR COMBINATIONS FOR POSTERS

- |                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| < black on yellow               | < purple on white  |
| < black on orange               | < white on purple  |
| < yellow or orange on navy blue | < blue on yellow   |
| < green on white                | < blue on orange   |
| < red on white                  | < purple on orange |
| < black on white                | < green on yellow  |
| < white on navy blue            | < yellow on purple |
| < yellow or orange on black     | < orange on purple |
| < white on red                  | < green on orange  |
| < white on green                |                    |

## PRESENTATION SKILLS

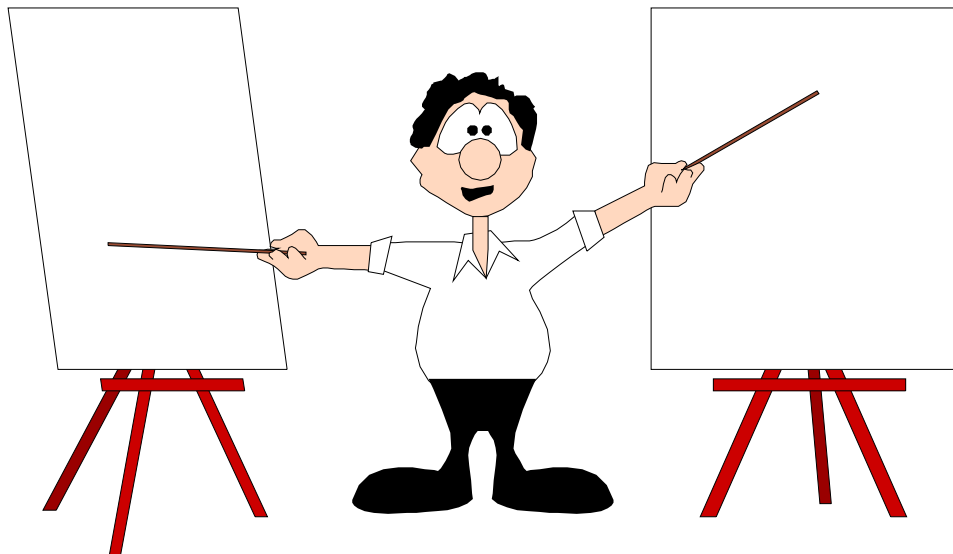
Use **notes** sparingly, if at all. Your speech should not be written word for word, only an outline. Use as many cards as you need instead of trying to cram it all on 2-3 cards. Number each card at the top right hand corner. Note Cards should not be larger than 4 X 6 inches.

**Rehearse** alone and out loud in front of a mirror the first few times. When you feel comfortable, practice in front of others. Practice in front of a table and with all visuals you will be using at DPA. Be careful of "umm's", "ahhs", and "okay's" to fill in thinking space.

**Dress** appropriate for your demonstration. When possible, dress for your subject in either a costume or uniform. If not, you need to "dress up," slacks and ties for boys and dressy outfit for girls. Girls should avoid excessive jewelry and makeup.

**Speak** clearly and slowly. Replace words you have trouble saying with words you are more comfortable with.

Don't forget to smile and make eye contact with the judges and the audience. Use hand gestures when appropriate but don't over use. Stand up straight and don't lean on the table.



## DEMONSTRATION SCORE CARD

Keep these eight things in mind when putting together your demonstration and practicing it. These apply to almost all projects.

Appearance .....	10 points
Visual Aids .....	10 points
Delivery .....	10 points
Orderly Progress .....	10 points
Accuracy of Information .....	15 points
Coverage of Subject .....	25 points
Knowledge of Subject .....	15 points
Time Limit .....	5 points
 Total .....	 100 points

### MISTAKES?

Hopefully with enough practice, all of the rough spots in your demonstration will be ironed out before DPA. But, what if the unthinkable happens . . . your posters fall, you forget what you are talking about, your note cards get out of order. Just relax and regain your composure, it is not a big deal. Remember, everyone in the room can sympathize with you and is pulling for you. Correct the problem and go on.

Turn a negative into a positive. The judges will be impressed if you handle a mistake properly. Do not make a joke of a mistake or even acknowledge it. Truth is, many mistakes will not be noticed in the room unless you do something to point them out.

### PRESENTATIONS AND FEAR

It is normal to have butterflies in your stomach. Even guest speakers get nervous before their presentations. A good way to calm down before a speech is to take ten deep breaths. This may sound silly, but when we get nervous we tend to hold our breath. Taking deep breaths gets oxygen to our brain and muscles and helps us calm down.

A lot of times we get nervous when we aren't comfortable with our demonstration. Practice makes you feel better about your speech, which takes away some of the fear.

