

Show Me, Tell Me...



What You Will Learn...

- Gain new knowledge and learn through research
- Learn to organize ideas and clearly express them
- Improve stage presence -- speaking, listening, poise
- Develop self-confidence
- Teach and show others “best practices” for adoption
- Develop communication and interview skills for job success
- Earn recognition

4-H Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks



When we want to learn something new, we often turn to someone else to show us how. Maybe you have been asked by a friend?, “Let me see you do...”. You probably didn’t think twice before you began to show and tell them about your new skill.

Simply, 4-H demonstrations and illustrated talks are “show-n-tell” presentations to teach useful information to others. Which one you choose depends on your audience, where you will be giving it, the topic you have selected and your access to visuals and equipment. Great 4-H demos and talks are fun and engaging for the presenter and the audience.

Use this chart to help you decide whether to give a demonstration or talk.

DEMONSTRATIONS

Focus on DOING

You SHOW HOW to make something using ingredients and equipment.

“How to Make A Rabbit Nest Box”

Audience can see, taste, touch, feel or test the FINISHED PRODUCT.

Your goal is to encourage your audience TO GO AND DO what you have shown.

ILLUSTRATED TALKS

Focus on TALKING

You TELL HOW something is done using models, real objects, photos, posters, animals, chalkboard, etc.

“Keeping Your Rabbit Healthy”

There is NO finished product for the audience.

Your goal is to share knowledge for your audience TO IMPROVE.

Choose Your Topic:

The best topic is one that interests you and your audience. The easiest presentation to give is one where you already know a lot about the topic. Audiences usually enjoy learning about new methods, products or practices that make jobs easier, faster or more profitable.

Questions to guide your topic choice:

- ☛ Am I interested in this topic?
- ☛ Is the topic useful to my audience?
- ☛ What do I know about the topic?
- ☛ Is there one main idea to share?
- ☛ Is the topic too hard or too easy?
- ☛ Can I clearly demonstrate or talk about the topic?
- ☛ Is the topic related to my 4-H project?
- ☛ Does the topic have enough action?



Something as simple as showing how to sew on a button is an example of a great first topic for a 4-H demonstration.

Plan Your Demonstration or Talk:

How Long Should It Be?

- *Member's First Time*
1 to 2 minutes
- *Young or Inexperienced Member*
2 - 5 minutes
- *Older or Experienced Member*
5 - 10 minutes

Note: Contests may have specific time limits based on age or experience level of member.

Outlining key points will help you organize your ideas. Good presentations happen when what you are saying matches what you are doing.

Planning ahead will make giving a demonstration or talk easier. Organizing the steps and determining the equipment, supplies and visuals needed will help you use your presentation time effectively.

Brainstorm with an adult or another member some key points on your topic. Then do some research on the web, at the library, through 4-H project resources or with people in your community who are knowledgeable on your topic.

Key Points 3 to 5	What You Will Do?	What You Will Say?	What Supplies, Equipment, Visuals You Will Need?
<i>Example</i>	<i>Example</i>	<i>Example</i>	<i>Example</i>
What is Needed to Make ...	Point to or hold up the actual item.	Ingredients needed are ... Supplies and or equipment needed are...	Poster or chart listing all items or just the actual equipment and supplies needed.



Parts To Your Demonstration or Talk

Introduction...

Should be a creative, clever way to make your audience want to listen. How can you grab your audience's attention with a short snappy statement or question related to your topic. Tell them who you are, why you selected the topic and it's importance to them.

Example: "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Snacking Motor Speedway! In just a few minutes, today's race will begin, our drivers are making their final preparations. Here comes the fruit group entry - the Lemon Bug. Followed by the vegetable group entry - the Cuke Convertible. The next entry is from the grain group - the Bun Buggy. Uh, oh, I think this one needs to go back to the garage for a complete detailing. Let's head over to watch the process!"

Hi! I'm Katie, the food mechanic, looks like this vehicle needs some work - follow along as we Rev Up a Bun Buggy.

Body...

Is where you "show and tell" in logical steps the key points. By knowing how to do every step, you can make what you say fit your actions and visuals.

Use your own words to convince your audience you know what you are talking about as you tell them the what, how and why of every step. Don't memorize it, instead imagine yourself talking to your best friend as you "show and tell" about your topic.

Choose practical items needed for showing the steps. You want your audience to be able to leave able to repeat what you have shown. Animals make great visuals for some topics and can help hold your audience's attention. Check to make sure where you are giving the talk allows your type of animal to be used. If not, photos, posters, stuffed animals or models will work to help you make your points.

Conclusion...

Is your last chance to sell your ideas to your audience. Review the important points, show a finished product and share your sources of information. End with a catchy wrap up statement and ask if there are any questions. Repeat the question for everyone to hear. Answer using your knowledge to extend the audience's learning. If you don't know the answer, say so and offer to find the answer for them.



Creating a Title...

How do you choose a book to read or a movie to go to? Of course, by the title, so get your audience's interest right from the start with a catchy, fun, imaginative title. It's easier to come up with a title after you have spent some time developing your demo or talk.



Adults Role In Helping 4-H'ers Succeed

The first time speaking in front of a group can be frightening. Encourage participation, but don't be pushy. Find a way for members to see it is FUN!

Here are several ideas:

- Choose something simple like tying a shoe. Start your 4-H club meeting by showing how to tie a shoe. Tell members that you have just given a simple demonstration.
- Put together "demo bags", each bag would contain an item(s) that members would use to show how to do something.

Most of all youth need your support and encouragement when giving a demo or talk. Give positive feedback!

Tips for Making Your 4-H Demo or Talk Great

- Wear clothes that are appropriate for what you are doing.
- Select the right tools and equipment for the tasks you will be doing. Make sure they work and are clean.
- Make charts, posters or photos colorful and large enough for your audience to see them. Dark lettering is easier to read.
- Organize supplies to prevent work space from becoming cluttered.
- Practice, practice, practice! Give your demo or talk to family, friends, or your club advisor to get comfortable with doing it.
- Have someone give you feedback. Or even better video tape you, so you can see yourself in action.
 - ☺ Do you smile?
 - ☺ Are you excited about what you are doing?
 - ☺ Do you make eye contact with your audience?
 - ☺ Do you have good posture?
 - ☺ Do you speak clearly in a natural voice loud enough to be heard?
 - ☺ Do you look like you know what you are doing?
 - ☺ Do you distract your audience by chewing gum, rocking back and forth, messing with your hair, reading your notes, etc.?
- Take pride in your accomplishments and learn from your mistakes. Your skills will improve with every demo or talk you give.

Another great resource to help you give your first demonstration or to sharpen your demonstrating skills: It's Showtime! How to Demonstrate the 4-H Way, a you tube done by New Mexico State University. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTytHTCkv8c>