DO A VISUAL PRESENTATION

Florida Cooperative Extension Service / Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
University of Florida, Gainesville
WHAT IS A 4-H VISUAL PRESENTATION?

A visual presentation is a teaching method used to communicate an idea. Charts, flannel boards, flash cards, slides, models, photography, or chalk boards are aids that can be used. Visual presentations include demonstrations and illustrated talks.

A 4-H Visual Presentation Teaches You To:
• Express yourself clearly.
• Research a subject.
• Organize ideas in logical order.
• Develop poise in speaking before a group.
• Develop these attitudes and feelings:
  “I can do it.” — pride in skill.
  “I’m in.” — the fun of belonging to a group.
  “What I say and do counts” — a feeling of status in the group, acquired from taking part.
  “I can get and give help.” — a feeling of inter-dependence and security as a group member.

YOUR METHOD

Demonstration? Illustrated talk? Which method should you use? What is the difference?

Here are some of the key differences between a method demonstration and an illustrated talk. It is not possible always to draw clean lines between the two.

Demonstration
• A demonstration is DOING.
• A demonstration is SHOW HOW. As you show how, you tell how.
• In a demonstration you MAKE something or DO something. There is always a finished product.

Illustrated Talk
• An illustrated talk is TALKING.
• A illustrated talk is TELL HOW with the aid of visuals.
• In an illustrated talk you use CHARTS, PICTURES, MODELS, CUT-OUTS, ETC.

As you start to select a method for your presentation, ask yourself such questions as:
• Do I want to show and explain the actual steps in doing something? Then give a demonstration.
• Are visuals the best way to explain your topic? Give an illustrated talk.
• Can you take all the equipment needed or does space allow use of equipment? If the answer is “no”, do an illustrated talk.
• Are you teaching members of a small group how to do a new skill? Use a method demonstration.

Individual or Team Demonstration.

When the demonstration requires more work than one person can do alone, a team demonstration is called for. Extra practice is usually required in a team effort so that the two participants can better coordinate their parts. Both team members should participate equally in the speaking and showing of the presentation.

THE PLACE TO BEGIN

Select a subject that:
• interests you
• relates to one of your projects
• is of practical value
• challenges your ability
• Is it easy to use?
• Is it colorful?
• Does it stress or explain a point?

LOOK SHARP

Appearance Counts!
You are not only selling a subject, you are selling yourself.
• Dress appropriately for your presentation.
• Wear 4-H attire if appropriate.

Sell Yourself
The job of selling yourself to your audience will be easier if you:
• Start with a smile
• Be enthusiastic
• Are well-groomed from head-to-toe
• Have good posture
• Have eye contact with the audience
• Speak distinctly
• Avoid mannerisms that may distract the audience.
  • Pushing back hair
  • Rocking back and forth
  • Too much jewelry
  • Jangling change
  • Chewing gum

BE SHARP

• Arrange posters in the order you wish to use them
• Plan for all the supplies you need
• Arrange supplies conveniently and attractively so your audience can see all processes
• Have only the necessary items in view
• If you use notes, put them in outline form and use them inconspicuously
• Do not talk when your back is to the audience
• Remember to:
  • Loosen caps and tops before beginning the visual presentation
  • Cover the brand names

If you use trays,
  • Line them with paper towels to lessen noise
  • Place tall items in back; arrange in order of use

• Practice your delivery
  Practice will help you:
  • Do things in a logical order
  • Stay within the time limit
  • Use visuals skillfully
  • Know if you have enough information about the subject
  • Don’t quit now — you are making progress.

You will find many places to give good visual presentations: in 4-H Club meetings; 4-H Council meetings, project training workshops, and 4-H visual presentation contests. You can learn to give a visual presentation; then you can teach someone else. Pass it on.

Each time you give the visual presentation, try to improve it. Do your best to make the visual presentation a learning experience for you and your audience.

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