Tell me what you wanted to learn or what you did learn the most about? (You want to get deeper here than just “I wanted to make a …..”) Ex. I wanted to learn about a technique/process/topic/ etc.

If that doesn’t get you more direction, ask “what decisions did you have to make along the way?”

Select the project area/class that will best fit. Remember, judges will judge based on their project area. Just because the end product is something for the home doesn’t mean it will be best under home improvement.

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**Is it Clothing or Sewing?**

**Clothing:** The judge will look more at how the item fits in your wardrobe, cost per wearing, fit, color, care, etc.

**Sewing and needle arts:** The judge will put more emphasis on the construction techniques and quality.

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**Is it Home Improvement or Sewing?**

A **Home Improvement** judge will evaluate the product based on how the item fits in the home with other furniture, wall hangings, etc. The judge will look at color, texture, line, balance, care, etc.

A **sewing** judge will put more emphasis on the construction techniques and quality.

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**Is it Food & Nutrition or Health?**

**Food & Nutrition:** In general will look at cooking techniques, food safety, dining etiquette, table setting, food science (ingredient properties & substitutions.)

**Health:** Food could be exhibited here, but more emphasis would be place on nutritional aspects and less on meeting product quality standards.

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**Is it Home Improvement or Woodworking?**

A **Home Improvement** judge would evaluate the product based on how the item fits in the home with other furniture, wall hangings, etc. The judge will look at color, texture, line, balance, etc.

A **Woodworking** judge will evaluate the product based on construction techniques. Is it smooth, finished well, solid joints, etc. Quality of construction will be a strong factor.
Is it Visual Art of Home Improvement?

A Home Improvement judge will evaluate the product based on how it fits in the home, in the room it is meant for. Was the piece of art designed specifically to fit in a certain location? Color, texture, line, balance, etc. will all be factors looked at and how this piece contributes to the overall effect of the living space it is created for.

A Visual Art judge will evaluate the product based on the techniques and artistic decisions made on the piece alone. Again design elements and art principles will play a major part in the discussion with the judge.

Is it Leadership, Citizenship or Communication?

Leadership will put more emphasis on how the 4-H member influenced others in a positive way toward a common goal. The key here is for the 4-H member to really be able to describe how they influenced others.

Citizenship will focus more on how the 4-H member helped other people or a community of people. How and what did the member learn about contributing their time, talents or treasure?

Communication will stress what the member learned about how to effectively share a message. This can use a visual, written, oral or electronic method.

Is it Animals Science or Veterinary Science?

Animal Science would include any exhibit about animals that isn’t about the animal’s health. It could be about facilities, safety, breeds, Ag business, training, ethics, etc.

Veterinary Science would include exhibits that demonstrate what the member has learned about keeping an animal healthy. This could include things like vaccinations, worming, first aid, diseases, nutrition, etc.

Is it Horticulture or Mechanics or Woodworking?

A lawn ornament might be in horticulture if the learning was focused on designing your outdoor living space.

If a lawn ornament will be in Mechanics or Woodworking it will be evaluated more on the constructed quality and standards of the ornament.

Is a terrarium Horticulture or Home Improvement?

In Horticulture, the judge will evaluate based on the plants selected, health of the plants, environment for the plants, etc.

In Home Improvement, a judge will evaluate based on how the color, line, balance, shape, etc. fit with in the room for which it was designed.