



We are not looking for an extraordinary project, we are looking for extraordinary learning! It is important that in preparing youth for the fair that 4-H volunteers and staff utilize our Experiential Learning Model and are able to reflect the "Do, Reflect, Apply" process that they have utilized. Youth need to be able to demonstrate not only their exhibit, but what they have learned and how they reached their goal.

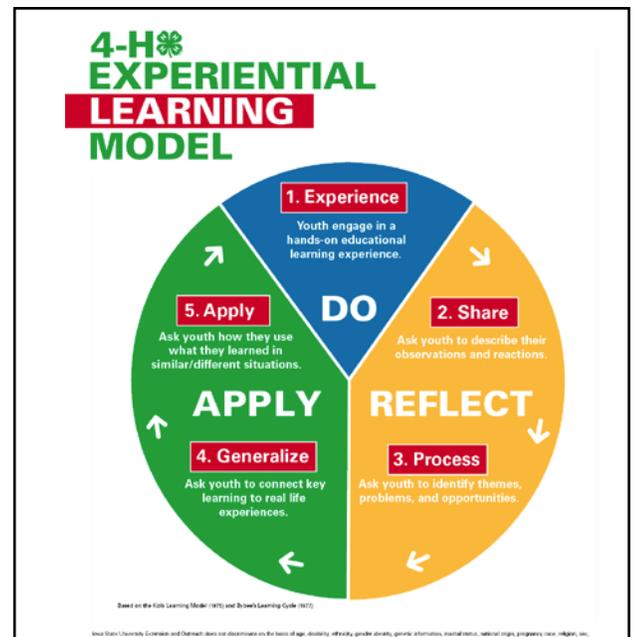
Preparation

- **Review the questions listed in this resource guide.**

Consider what types of questions you can ask youth as you help to prepare them for the fair.

- **Practice.** Working with the youth on preparation questions in advance helps the youth to prepare for the judging experience and allows them to process and reflect on their learning, a part of the Experiential Learning Model. Time with the judge is usually seven to ten minutes; be prepared to showcase learning in this time frame.

- **Review the information that should be included in the written summary.** Most counties require youth to complete a written summary with their exhibit.



Questions

For all exhibits, 4-H'ers should be prepared to answer these 3 questions from their judge regarding their exhibit. Consider preparing youth for these questions by utilizing other club members, conducting mock judging experiences, asking older youth to mentor younger youth and reviewing the questions, etc.

- What did you plan to learn or do?
- What steps did you take to learn and do this?
- What were the most important things you learned?

Other questions to include as you work to help prepare youth for the fair may include:

- What was your goal for the project?
- What did you do?
- What key points did you learn?
- How did you handle problems?
- What could someone else learn from your work?

Written Summary

Helping youth prepare for the judging experience includes helping them prepare their written summary. Below are highlights and tips of what and how to complete a written summary.

- Should be sufficient to provide needed information.
- Should be easy to find important information.
- Longer is not always better.
- Describe how the 4-H exhibit relates to their project area learning.

Resources Available to Help Prepare Youth for the Fair

- Project area information can be found on the Iowa 4-H Youth Development website. From the home page <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/>, choose “projects” from the menu.
- Choose a project. Each project area page has a section in the sidebar titled “Project Helpers” where youth can find the Project Hot Sheet and record keeping forms.
- County Fair flowcharts found on the Volunteer Resources page of the 4-H website. <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/volunteerresources>
- Strengthening Goal-Centered Learning 4-H 203 document (an adult version and a youth version can be located on the Volunteer Resources page <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/volunteerresources>