

4-H DESIGN ELEMENTS & ART PRINCIPLES CHECK SHEET

Name _____ County _____

Age _____ Grade _____ Years in Project _____

Exhibit Description _____

4-Hers may use this sheet with Visual Arts, Home Improvement, and Clothing exhibits OR they may write a separate explanation of how Design Elements and Art Principles were used in their exhibit. (Refer to the Fair Book for more information about which classes require this.) An exhibit selected for the State Fair must have a written explanation. Refer to the back of this sheet for a brief explanation of design elements and art principles.

- a. Members in grades 4-6 are responsible for using a minimum of one design element within their exhibit. Youth must explain how the specified element is used in the exhibit. While not evaluated or given a higher ribbon placing for using more than one element, youth may discuss additional elements used in the exhibit.
- b. Members in grades 7-8 are responsible for using a minimum of two design elements within their exhibit. Youth must explain how the specified elements are used in the exhibit. While not evaluated or given a higher ribbon placing for using more than two elements, youth may discuss additional elements used in the exhibit.
- c. Members in grades 9-10 are responsible for using a minimum of one art principle and the element or elements used in the selected principle. Youth must explain how the element or elements are used to illustrate the selected principle. While not evaluated or given a higher ribbon placing for using more than one principle, youth may discuss additional principles and corresponding elements used in the exhibit.
- d. Members in grade 11-12 are responsible for using a minimum of two art principles and the elements used in the selected principles. Youth must explain how the elements are used to illustrate the selected principles. While not evaluated or given a higher ribbon placing for using more than two principles, youth may discuss additional principles and corresponding elements used in the exhibit.

Design Elements used in this exhibit:

_____ **Line** _____

_____ **Shape** _____

_____ **Color** _____

_____ **Texture** _____

_____ **Space** _____

Art Principles used in this exhibit:

_____ **Rhythm** _____

_____ **Proportion** _____

_____ **Emphasis** _____

_____ **Balance** _____

_____ **Unity** _____

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF DESIGN ELEMENTS & ART PRINCIPLES

Design Elements:

Design has individual elements which are part of every item. These include:

1. **Line** - horizontal, vertical, dotted, zig-zag, curved, straight, bold or fine. These show direction and lead the eye.
2. **Shape** - such as circle, square, triangle, and freeform. Objects can be one shape or a combination of shapes.
3. **Color** - hue, value, and intensity. This refers to the color, the lightness/darkness, and the brightness/dullness respectively.
4. **Texture** - the surface quality of an item. How it feels or would feel if touched. (Smooth, slick, shiny, rough, raised, bumpy, fuzzy, grainy, soft, hard)
5. **Space** - this refers to the area that a shape/form occupies and the background in which we see it. Positive space is made of the shapes and forms. Negative space is the background.

Art Principles:

These are the directions or guidelines for mixing the design elements. They include:

1. **Rhythm** - how the eye moves from one design point to another. (i.e. Repeating color, shape, texture, line, or space. Varying size of objects, shapes, lines. Using progression of colors from tints to shades.)
2. **Proportion** - the relationship between one part of a design and another part or the whole design. It is a comparison of sizes, shapes, and quantities.
3. **Emphasis** - the accent or point of interest. Created by using a contrasting color, using a different or unusual line, making shapes very large or very small, using a different shape, using a plain background.
4. **Balance** - gives a feeling of stability. 3 Types: Symmetrical – the same on both sides; Radial – has a center point like a tire, a pizza, or a daisy; Asymmetrical – creates a feeling of equal weight even though the sides do not look the same.
5. **Unity** - a feeling that all parts belong together or look right together.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER IN EVALUATING THE EXHIBIT

There is seldom only one way to evaluate and improve a design, so don't be surprised if different people have different ideas about your work. Be prepared to answer questions like these:

1. Where did you get your idea for your design?
2. Describe one of the design elements and how you used it in your exhibit?
3. What do you like about the way your design looks?
4. What might you change another time?
5. What is your emphasis or first thing you see in this exhibit?
6. How do the parts relate to each other in this exhibit?