

Judging and Award Guidelines for 4-H Educational Displays

The Judge's Role

While your primary role is an evaluator, you are also a teacher and an encourager. 4-H youth should learn from this experience and want to improve on their next display.

The judge of an educational display is expected to:

- Rate each display according to the 4-H guidelines.
- Completely fill out evaluation sheets. All boxes should be checked and comments should be written for each of the three main sections as well as overall comments at the bottom.
- Offer constructive suggestions for improvement.
- Be consistent and fair in your evaluations.
- Dress appropriately if there is an interview portion to the evaluation.

You should have read all the material on educational displays on the state website. It is important to understand that there is a difference between 4-H Educational Displays and many project area displays. Be sure to read the State Fair book for criteria on each class.

When judging 4-H Educational Displays, the following guidelines will help provide consistency in evaluating and placings.

Champion/Reserve Champion/State Selected

If most of the checks are in the “well done” boxes, consider this display for champion ribbons.

Blue Award

Blue awards should have a mixture of “well done” and “satisfactory” checks. There should be no more than one check for “could improve.”

Red Award

Red awards should be mainly “satisfactory” with a few checks in the “could improve” boxes.

White Award

White awards will have many checks in the “could improve” boxes.

While we are striving for consistency in judging, remember that we may have different expectations for juniors than we have for seniors.

Use the following rubric for checking the boxes on the evaluation sheet.

Educational Display Evaluation Rubric

	Well Done	Satisfactory	Could Improve
Subject and Content			
Educational value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highly informative ▪ Audience fully understands the concepts presented ▪ Encourages the audience to increase knowledge through given sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Informative to most people ▪ Audience understands concepts but may have a few questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Little educational value ▪ Audience is left with many questions
Accurate and complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information is completely accurate ▪ Display fully covers the intended subject 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information is accurate; may have one minor inaccuracy ▪ Display appears to cover the subject 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information contains two or more inaccurate statements ▪ Information presented does not cover subject ▪ Subject may have been too narrow or too wide
Clear and concise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information is easy to understand ▪ Bullets used effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Most information is clearly presented ▪ Some text a bit wordy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information not clear ▪ Too much text
Title	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Catches the viewer's attention. Makes the viewer want to stop and read ▪ Easy to find and read ▪ Clearly matches the content of the display 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acceptable title, but not striking ▪ Title not hidden, but may not stand out ▪ Matches the content of the display 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Too long or confusing ▪ Hard to find and/or read ▪ Misleads the viewer on what the display is about
Appropriate to target audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic completely appropriate ▪ Information near perfectly suited for target audience ▪ Excellent choice of visuals for audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic acceptable for target audience ▪ Information acceptable for target audience ▪ Most visuals appropriate for target audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic not acceptable for target audience ▪ Information doesn't match target audience (text too simple or too complex) ▪ Visuals not appropriate for age group
Cites reliable sources of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All sources are credible ▪ Good variety and number of sources (3-5) ▪ Documentation done correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Most sources are credible ▪ Some variety of sources and acceptable number (2-3) ▪ Attempt made at proper documentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Questionable sources used ▪ Little variety in sources and/or limited number of sources (1-2) ▪ Documentation missing or inadequate
Elements & Principles of Design			
Eye-catching/Attractive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Display stands out for its design and attractiveness ▪ Makes you want to stop and read ▪ Flow leads your eye to the central area of focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Display has a couple of outstanding portions, but the overall appearance seems to blend in with other displays ▪ Display is pleasing to look at but doesn't stand out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Display is not eye-catching or attractive ▪ Easily overlooked as it is overshadowed ▪ No central area of focus

	Well Done	Satisfactory	Could Improve
Easy to read or see	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excellent font choice; very legible ▪ Size of text excellent ▪ Display divided into logical sections ▪ Headings and subheadings are easy to identify 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acceptable font or neat lettering ▪ Size of text acceptable ▪ Display divided into sections, but may be a bit confusing ▪ Some headings and subheadings used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hard to read font or sloppy lettering ▪ Text too small or large ▪ No logical divisions of material ▪ Few or no headings used
Use of line, form, color	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pleasing mix of colors ▪ Color used to draw audience's attention to important areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use of color acceptable ▪ Lacking a strong presence of color 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of color used ▪ Poor choice of color combination
Use of shape, space, texture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spaced used efficiently and effectively ▪ Spacing is uniform ▪ Borders used effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Display appears slightly full or empty ▪ Slight irregularities in spacing ▪ Some borders used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overall look is either very empty or overly crowded ▪ Spacing is not uniform ▪ Borders either not used or over-used
Good mix of visuals and text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mix of visuals and text is well-balanced and visually pleasing ▪ Good mix of visuals used (pictures, graphs, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some mix of visuals and text, but one may overpower the other ▪ Some variety in type of visuals used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dominated by either text or visuals; little balance shown ▪ Little variety in type of visuals used
Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Display has unique aspects ▪ Personality of presenter shines through 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some creativity shown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Display has few unique features
Workmanship			
Neatness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cuts are straight and neat ▪ Lettering is neat and legible ▪ Display parts are evenly aligned or neatly arranged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cuts are mainly straight, but there may be a few minor crooked items ▪ Most lettering neat and legible ▪ Most parts of display are neatly arranged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cuts are not straight or neatly made ▪ Lettering sloppy and hard to read ▪ Sections put on crookedly or haphazardly arranged
Appropriate spelling and grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No or very minor grammatical and/or spelling errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One or two major errors or several minor errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multiple errors ▪ Errors distract audience from learning
Professional appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Text done on computer or very neatly hand-written ▪ Matting used on most parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Handwritten neatly ▪ Some matting used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sloppily written; hard to read ▪ No matting used
Craftsmanship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excellent workmanship ▪ All items are securely attached ▪ Meets all exhibit requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A few lapses in craftsmanship (some corners not glued down) ▪ May fall short on one or two exhibit requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flaws in workmanship (items fall off, pictures torn, bent corners, etc.) ▪ Fails to meet major exhibit requirements