

GLENN COUNTY 4-H

**ABA
JUDGING 101**



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ABA Judging 101



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Judging is a process to help 4-H members grow in the abilities to think, reason and make logical and scientific judgements.

Four steps in the Judging process

1. Observe

2. Examine and compare

3. Decide

4. Tell why (give reasons)

When you make a decision and tell why it was made, that is called judging!

We all make decisions all the time. Judging days are when our skills to make the best decision possible are put to the test. It helps us figure out why we make decisions and the rationale behind them. Similar to livestock judging, the judging of classes in ABA is using your knowledge and experience.

Individual Judging

1.
Read through the
description and
study the objects

2.
Use the steps above
to decide on how to
rank the objects on
comparison in the class.

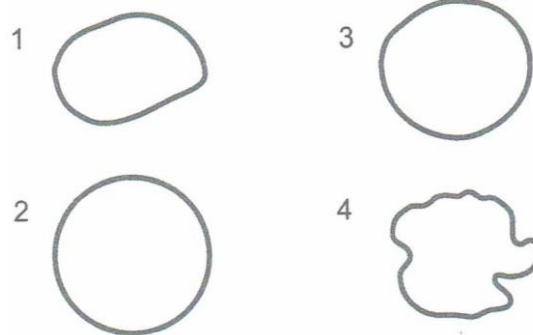
3.
Be sure to log your
findings on your
scorecard.

Time to test your skills!



Use what you know to compare with the rest. There should be quality differences in each item; no matter what it is you are comparing. There should be one that stands out as great and one opposite. The hard ones can be the two in between. Just take a moment to always compare your items against your best (put this item number first) and your worst (put this item number last).

Look at these four drawn circles. We have been looking at circles throughout life so far. Use that knowledge to rank the following:



After using the process, you should conclude the following ranking: 2-3-1-4.

Circle 2 is perfectly round and being perfectly drawn; uniform in shape. Circle 3 has a little 'wobble' drawn into the line; less uniform. Circle 1 is a little more 'wobbly' than Circle 3. Circle 4 has hardly any circle shape to it; not uniform at all.

When you are in the judging process, take small notes on what you are observing- especially if you are drawn to one class in particular.

Giving reasons

The oral presentation of giving reasons is more important than the ranking itself. More is learned by the **process of producing reasons**:

1. Organize thoughts;
2. Expression through logic in a convincing presentation;
3. Speaking effectively;
4. Analyzation;
5. Fast thinking;
6. Testing memory.

After judging in all the classes for your age division; choose a class for giving reasons. Go back to your notes and fill out your card with your notes and observations.

There is a format to giving reasons; this is outlined on the card for you.

Using the judging example above; let's look at see how this is done.

1. Introduce yourself to the judge.
Include your name, age division, 4-H club, and how long you have been in 4-H.

- “My name is _____, I am a (Junior, Intermediate, Senior) in the _____ 4-H Club. I have been in 4-H for _____ years.”
2. Start you reasons using the outline on the card. Try not to use vague responses such as “kind of,” “I think”. Be as precise as possible.
“I placed this class of circles 2-3-1-4. I placed circle 2 over 3 because it is free of defects and more uniform than circle 3. I placed Circle 3 over 1 because it is imperfect but has less defects than circle 1. I placed circle 1 over circle 4 because it still has a rounded shape compared to 4. I placed circle 4 last because it is without any rounded shape.
 3. Thank the judge.

The judges are looking for: knowledge, appropriate terms, good verbal presentation and organization of reasons. (Use the process of producing reasons above.)

GOOD LUCK!!!



Remember: JUDGING is selecting by comparing.

JUDGING is a daily experience.

JUDGING is a way of learning.

JUDGING is a way of teaching.

JUDGING CAN BE FUN AND CHALLENGING!

Jan Hiller and Jerry Newman

Contributed by Marci Sanchez for the Glenn County UCCE

Resource: Learning Through Judging by Jan Hiller and Jerry Newman. <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/em4647e/em4647e.pdf>

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