

Goals of this Manual

- Provide educational experiences and activities for senior members to demonstrate, through their research and/or evaluative data, how to deliver high-quality 4-H programs related to current issues
- Inspire senior members to stay involved by building basic discussion skills
- Introduce opportunities for senior members to pool their knowledge to reach consensus and solve current 4-H member issues
- Promote self-esteem through individual expression and leadership

Objectives

- Build Self-confidence by stimulating logical thinking
- Expand inquiry, investigate and analytical skills
- Develop a concise and direct manner of speaking which can be heard in a large gathering
- Improve the ability to listen while being an active participant in a discussion
- Increase the understanding of the value of compromise
- Extend skills for understanding and addressing effective problem solving through group discussions

Structure of Opening Statements, Closing Statements and Points

Types of Opening Statements:

Occasion/Position

- Simple, memorable and tailored to the question
- Easily understood picture of your opinion that makes it different from the others
- It is credible and your opinion can deliver on its promise. The parts include:
 1. Complex Sentence
 2. Occasion introduces your reason for writing
 3. Position states what you plan to prove or explain

Begins with:

While, In order that, before, As long as, Though, Because, Unless, Since, etc.

A Power (Number) Statement contains:

Two, Several, A couple of, A myriad, Numerous, etc.

Eg. When people think about Albertans, they think about three things.

However Statements used to explain a relationship contain:

In fact, Next, Furthermore, Finally, Hence, Moreover, Besides, Still, Consequently, Thus, etc.

And, but, and Or Statements:

BOYFANS (Because, Or, Yet, For, And, Nor, So)

Eg. Some people find it difficult to assemble furniture from IKEA, but most will succeed if they remember to look at the instructions.

Other strategies:

List statement

Eg. When I want to buy a new cereal I look for something that is filling, tastes good, and has a cute cartoon character on the box.

To, Plus a Verb

Eg. To complete your 4-H year, you must participate in a charity event.

Action Verb Topic Sentence

Create a thesis statement with declarative statement that uses a strong verb.



The E's

- Support the topic sentence
- Make the writing interesting and believable
- Information to back up reasons, details or facts

Examples, Explanations, Evidence, Events, Experiences, Expert Opinion, Everyday Life, Effective Illustrations, Elaboration, Excitement

Transitions

- Introduce key ideas
- Connect reason, details or facts
- Does not need to be the first word in the sentence

Eg. A bad, First, A worse, Also, Equally Important, Another, To begin, Once, Third, Then, etc.

Conclusions

- Remind the listener of the topic
- Restate your position
- Summarize paragraph
- Convince the readers of your position
- Challenge the readers to think about the issue
- Encourage readers to take action
- Vary sentence structure

Eg. In fact, Overall, Definitely, To sum up, In conclusion, Obviously, etc.

AVOID: as I have said, as I proved, as you can see

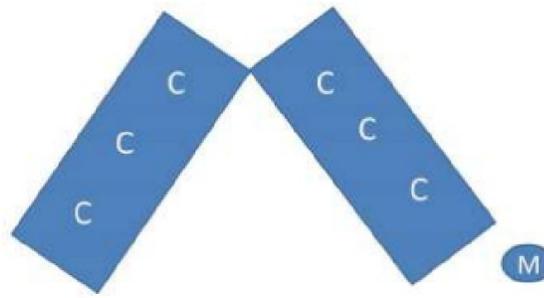
Discussion Flow

1. State problem or need
2. Explore, define and understand problem or need
3. Identify causes of problem or need
4. Elaborate all possible alternative solutions
5. Evaluate and compare alternatives
6. Test and project what appears to be the best solution
7. Arrive at ways to implement the solution

Discussion Meet Protocol



Room Layout



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x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x J x x x
x x x x x x x J x x x x x x x x x x x x
  
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M = Moderator C = Competitor J = Judge T = Timer X = Audience

- The Room Chair announces the topic to be discussed.
- Each competitor makes a 30-second opening statement directed to the audience.
- Open discussion between competitors for a total of 25 minutes. If the discussion lags, the moderator may cease the discussion.
- The Moderator calls for open discussion to stop after 20 minutes (25 in the Final Four). Competitors have one minute of quiet time to compose a closing statement.
- Each competitor makes a one-minute closing statement directed to the audience.
- The Judges leave the room with the Room Chair to finalize the tabulation of their score sheets.

There will be 4 rounds of discussion time, with eliminations occurring in Round 3. This is detailed in the following:

Round 1: Everyone. Practice Round

Round 3: Elite 8

Round 2: Everyone. Round Robin

Round 4: Final 4

Each round:

- Begins with opening 30 second statements from each competitor (voluntary)
- 20-25 minutes of discussion time
- 1 minute of quiet time to prepare closing statements
- 1 minute closing statements

Do's and Don'ts

Don't Do:

- Persuasive speaking
- Aimless talk/conversation
- Address the audience
- Monopolize the discussion

Do:

- Cooperatively shed light on the problem
- Retain flexible position on the topic
- Be aware of audience
- Address the panel
- Speak loudly
- Use statistics, quotes and sample solutions to prove you did outside research beforehand
- Use good listening skills
- Ask questions, state facts and opinions, be specific
- Address the other speakers by name
- Make key points in discussion to be used in summary statement
- Participate when your contribution will further the discussion
- Stay within the time limit

Scoring

Category	Description	Points Allotted
Cooperative Attitude	Listening, asking pertinent questions, airing all points of view, securing major agreements, minimizing major differences. Courtesy to other participants, encourage discussion from participants.	200
Problem Solving and Implementation	Ability and judgement in seeking answers and solutions, planning and organizational understanding.	200
Delivery	Voice quality, loudness, clear enunciation, communication skills, desirable sentence structure and interesting choice of words.	100
Analysis of Topic or Problem	Does contestant attempt to identify problem causes and remain on topic? Knowledge, extent and accuracy of facts.	100
Opening Statement	Definition of problem, importance, causes, effects, relevancy of problem.	50
Closing Statement	Ability to summarize discussion and formulate direction for the future.	100
Total		750

Ranking Sheet: Highest Scores Overall Advance

Final Four Winner: Rank each member 1 through 4 and lowest score wins.

Ties must be broken initially by the judge. Afterwards they go to the category of Cooperative Attitude (in ranking), then Problem Solving, and Delivery. If the tie is still unbroken then it moves to Analysis of Topic or Problem, Closing Statement and then Opening Statement.



Mock Discussion

Example Questions

1. Bullying is an on-going problem throughout our schools and community. Does the 4-H program have a responsibility to provide resources and education to its members about the impacts of bullying within schools, 4-H clubs and other activities? In what ways, if any, can 4-H members become involved in this issue?
2. Social media has become a staple in our everyday lives. How can 4-H members encourage their peers and greater community to balance their social media use with traditional social activities including exercise, face to face conversations and other nontechnology based activities?
3. Recycling and waste management mandates have pushed the effort to recycle to new limits. With the number of recycling centers decreasing, how can 4-H members raise awareness within their community and with governmental official, about the need to simplify and improve the program to enhance participation?
4. How can 4-H members develop the community service vision to include dynamic programs, activities and initiatives to serve our greater community in impactful and meaningful ways?
5. From natural to man-made disasters, our world can be quickly impacted by tragedy on both small and large scales. How can 4-H members develop conversations and encourage active discussion on how these events impact our daily lives and the lives of those around us?
6. 4-H membership rates have decreased over the past 15 years. How can 4-H increase membership rates in the coming years by using successful methods from outside organizations to boost interest in 4-H?
7. How can you help 4-Hers identify and analyze actions related to a water resource and its use?
8. How can 4-Hers develop the knowledge and skills necessary to address the challenges relevant to the study of the environment?
9. How can 4-Hers learn to do by doing within the community to provide youth with field research experience, technical expertise, and an opportunity to reflect on their own development?
10. When nations make decisions about healthy living, what are some of the dilemmas and consequences that might impact people around the world? How can 4-Hers decrease some of those negative results and/or increase the positive results?

Preparation is normally done beforehand: Research, topics, etc...

Roles of Officials

1. Competitors take seats by name cards. Room chair will call meeting to order and announce topic, the introduce timekeeper and moderator.
2. The moderator will introduce competitors and re-announce topic. Then each competitor will make a 30 second statement directed to the audience in voluntary order.
3. The timekeeper will flash a red card when the time limit has been met. Judges can subtract points from abusing time limit or unclear statements.
4. The moderator indicates open discussion for 25 minutes. Discussion should be directed towards fellow competitors now.



5. Timekeeper will tell moderator that 5 minutes of open discussion is left. Discussion will cease and one minute of quiet time will start, allowing competitors to compose a closing statement.
6. The moderator will allow each competitor to do their one minute closing statement in voluntary order.
7. The moderator will recognize the judges and request they leave the room with the room chair to finalize the tabulation of their score sheets. Judges may not confer until the score sheets have been collected by the room chair.
8. The moderator will thank the panel and ask the audience to recognize their efforts. They will then ask the competitors to share their personal 4-H background.
9. Call the meeting back to order and share scores or announce winners.