


**How to Judge?**

4-H Consumer Decision Making  
Judging Program



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**What is Judging?**

- Judging is making a decision and telling why you made it.
- In 4-H, judging is essentially a matter of comparing items and deciding which is better and why.

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**Keys to Successful Judging**

- Assess a given situation and select the best alternative based on the situation and criteria
- Observe closely
- Recognize quality products
- Present ideas concisely
- Present and defend decisions

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## Steps to Judging a Class

1. Read the situation story for the class.
2. Identify the criteria for the class as listed in order of priority in the situation story.
3. Review the four items presented as options to purchase.
4. Look at each item to determine if it meets the criteria listed in the situation story.
5. Rank the four items, with the item best for the situation listed first.

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## Judging - a Comparative Process

- When placing a class you are comparing the items.
- Compare “pairs” not the whole class.
- There are 3 pairs to compare:
  - Top Pair
  - Middle Pair
  - Bottom Pair

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## Standards & Criteria

- Decisions are based on the situation and the standards outlined in the situation statement.
- The situation for which an item will be used determines the quality needed for an item.
- Example, blue jeans for yard work do not need to be the same quality as blue jeans for social functions.

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### Sample Clover Class

- Billy is the editor of the county 4-H newsletter. He needs to find an appropriate clover for the cover.
- The National 4-H Center indicates that the clover should be green and have four symmetrical lobes or petals or petals.
- Help Billy pick the best clover.

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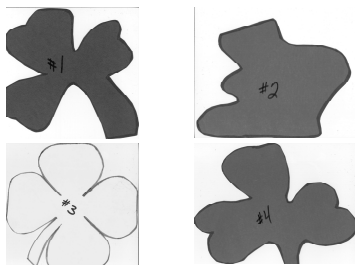
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### Clover Class Items



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### Identify the Criteria

- Color - Should be green
- Shape - Should have 4 symmetrical lobes or petals
- (List criteria on judging notes)

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### Judge Clover Class

- Review one page clover class
- Walk through completing judging note form
- Judge class
- Discuss class results

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### 4-H Clover Class

- I place this class of 4-H Clovers 3-4-1-2.
- In the top pair I place 3 over 4 because 3 has four distinct lobes or petals and is outlined in green marker. Granted, 4 is completely green, but does not have the symmetrical shape required.
- In the middle pair I place 4 over 1. Four has the required color and has three distinct petals.
- In the bottom pair I place 1 over 2 because 1 attempts to have the appropriate shape. Granted, 2 is the correct green color.
- For these reasons, I place this class of clovers 3-4-1-2.

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### Giving Oral Reasons

- The class will be identified.
- Take extra detailed notes.
- Will have 2 periods to study.
- Write out thoughts on oral reasons note form.
- May use notes if needed.

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### Terms for Oral Reasons

- Longer (est)
- More or Most Uniform
- More or Most Appealing (Color, Taste, Smell)
- Most Nearly Fits the Criteria
- Safer
- Cleaner (est)
- Lower (est) Cost
- More or Most Tender
- Smoother (est)
- More or Most Durable
- Sturdier
- Be Definable!

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### What is Group Process?

- Participate as a team
- 25 points each for team process & team participation
- Have 3 minutes to read through situation, 3 minute discussion time, 2 minutes final statement presentation

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### Group Process Steps

1. Define problem and state facts
2. Determine alternative solutions
3. List criteria
4. Evaluate the alternatives according to criteria
5. Make a decision based on the evaluation

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**Good Luck Judging!**

The 4-H Consumer Decision Making Judging program is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Extension Service Family Development and 4-H youth Development program areas.

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