



What Is An Educational Presentation?

Have you ever watched a movie where the people are all dressed in business suits, sitting around a table, and someone is giving a presentation? Some of the presenters may be using posters or a media presentation, and some may be using models or props, while others may only be delivering words to relay their point. If you have seen this, then you know what an educational presentation is!

A 4-H educational presentation is a demonstration of your knowledge and skills in a certain project area. This presentation is done in a way that is most comfortable to you. It can be accomplished using props (method demonstration), posters or media presentations (illustrated talk), or it can be you just speaking and convincing, or simply educating, with words alone (public speaking).

Why Should I Do An Educational Presentation?

An educational presentation is a great way to increase your public speaking skills. It provides you with the opportunity to get up in front of a group of other 4-H members or adults and showcase your knowledge. Along with helping develop great public speaking skills, it provides you with self-confidence, organizational skills, and the ability to successfully relay a message.

The great thing about an educational presentation is that it is FUN! Educational presentations can be done as an individual, by yourself, or with one to four of your 4-H friends. What better way to team-up with your friends in the same 4-H project group or club, and show off to everyone else what you have learned in your project?



In What Areas Can I Do An Educational Presentation?

Wow! An educational presentation can be done in so many different areas. The best way to see all the categories is to refer to the current Texas 4-H Roundup Participant Guidelines. Texas 4-H Roundup is the event where all educational presentations are given for competition. The Texas 4-H Roundup Guide provides the updated categories and detailed rules related to each category.

Educational presentations can be presented in subjects, such as beef, food & nutrition, clothing & textiles, companion animal, shooting sports, and family life, to name just a few. There is also one category that is called “open” for all those other cool projects 4-H members are doing on their own.

How Is An Educational Presentation Judged?

The common factor in all educational presentations is speaking. Therefore, the judging, or evaluation, of the presentation will be based on your (and your fellow members’) ability to effectively deliver a message through your presentation. Other factors, including the most appropriate method, will also be judged. For example, if your topic is “building a banana split,” then just *speaking* about the process would not be as effective as *demonstrating* the process of making a banana split by using the banana, ice cream and various toppings. Other judging factors include the organization of the presentation, how current and correct your information is, and from what resources the information came.

For more information on the judging of an educational presentation, refer to the educational score sheet under

the publication page of the Texas 4-H and Youth Development website (<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>), publication number 4-H 3-5.041.

How Do I Develop An Educational Presentation?

Developing an educational presentation should be fun! First, select a topic within a 4-H project in which you are participating. Your topic needs to be something in which you are interested. After all, you are going to be researching, writing, rehearsing, and presenting this topic to a lot of people. Choose a topic that can grow; as you increase your knowledge and involvement in the 4-H project, you can also expand your presentation focus.

Is your topic one that is an important issue in our world today? Well, it should be! Examples of a current topic may be “developing a home terrorist attack survival kit,” *not* an “atomic bomb survival kit.”

Once you have selected a topic, start researching! Your topic should include **ONLY** scientific research-based facts. Outstanding resources for acquiring such resources include local, state, and federal government websites/publications, firms that conduct unbiased research, and other organizations and associations’ websites/publications that provide research based information (i.e. American Heart Association, American Cancer Society).

Decide if you (and your friends) would like to present this presentation as a speech, a method demonstration, or an illustrated talk. Factors that help you decide the method to use include the resources you have (i.e. a computer with a presentation program), whether or not your topic is a subject that can be presented through a demonstration process, or is more informational/persuasive and should be delivered through a speech.

After you decide your presentation style, you should prepare an outline using the resources you have collected. Younger 4-H members may have to write out their entire speech, while older 4-H members that have been involved in public speaking may just have to prepare a detailed outline. Regardless, practice is the success to having a great educational presentation!

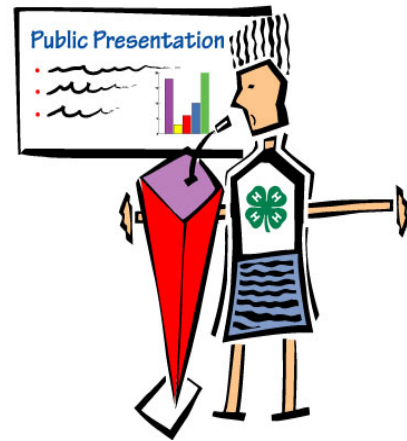
Where Can I Get More Resources For Helping Me Develop An Educational Presentation?

The Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program has many outstanding resources that provide information on how to develop a method demonstration, illustrated talk, and/or speech. Printed materials can be found on the publication page of the Texas 4-H and Youth Development website. A video on developing method demonstrations and illustrated talks can be checked out from your county Extension office.

Publications currently available online are:

- Public Speaking – 4-H Style
- 4-H Public Presentation Guide: Method Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks

Resources for your presentation can be found at the library, on the Internet, in your county Extension office, or from teachers, parents, and other professionals in your community. It is very important that you can defend the information presented in your presentation. It must be factual and from reliable resources.



For more information on developing an educational presentation, contact your local county Extension office.

Produced by Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program,
Texas Cooperative Extension (8/05)

Authored by:

Toby L. Lepley, Ph.D., Extension 4-H and Youth Development Specialist.
Kalico Karr-Leech, Extension Program Specialist – 4-H
Courtney Felder, Extension Program Specialist – 4-H