



# Livestock Judging

A 4-H Animal Science Project

## Activity 8, What's My Line?

## CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



**4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING** was developed through a team effort with the Florida 4-H Youth Development Program, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, and the Department of Animal Science, The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida.

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## Activity 8

### OBJECTIVES:

For youth to:

- Develop note taking skills.
- Identify the importance of oral reasons.
- Follow the format of oral reasons.
- Analyze the different styles of oral reasons.
- Develop skill in presentation of oral reasons.

### LIFE SKILLS:

- Communicating and relating to others.
- Acquiring, analyzing and using information.

### MATERIALS:

Copies of blank TAKING NOTES  
Handout for each youth

Copies of TAKING NOTES Handout for  
each youth

Copies of MAJOR SPEAK UP  
Points for each youth

Copies of REASONS FORMAT for each  
youth

Pens/pencils

Sunglasses (4 different types)

### TIME:

Depends on number of judging  
members

**SETTING:** Comfortable room



# WHAT'S MY LINE?

## BACKGROUND BASICS...

In judging, oral reasons enable the participants to express their opinions and knowledge about the animals they previously placed. Teams and members which strive for excellence in oral reasons usually outscore other teams and gain more overall knowledge from the judging opportunities. On the surface, reasons involve telling someone how and why a class of animals were placed the way they were. However, reasons communicate more about oneself than you realize: The industry knowledge, confidence level, ability to solve problems and perhaps most importantly, the ability to express truthful views on a subject.

In the competitive job market of today, many corporate executives cite communication skills as the most lacking skill of job applicants. We are very fortunate in livestock judging to have a tool which can cultivate confidence and aptitude in oral presentation; oral reasons.

Giving reasons will help youth to:

- Develop a system for analyzing a class of livestock,
- Think clearly on their feet,
- State their thoughts clearly,
- Improve their speaking, poise and presentation
- Develop their memory.

### Taking Notes

Unless youth have a photographic memory, accurate and complete note taking is imperative to the presentation of oral reasons. There are several hours between the actual viewing of a class and the presentation of the oral reasons on that class. Therefore, notes that are complete and accurate are vital to recall the image of the class in the members mind.

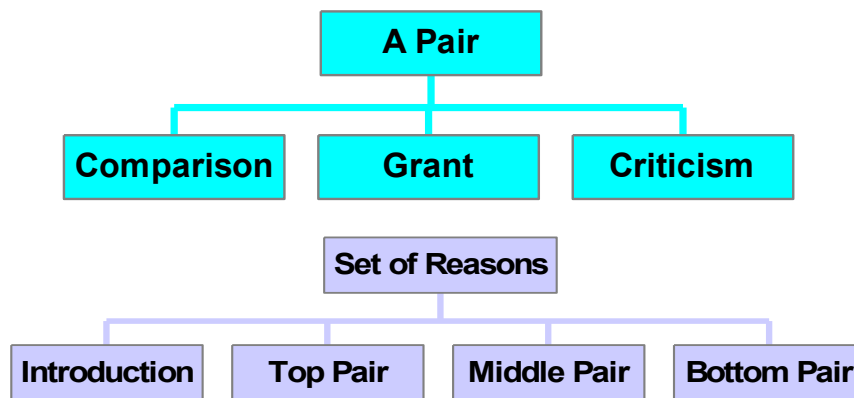
## BACKGROUND BASICS...continued

There are many different methods of note taking, and the method used by each member should be what he/she is most comfortable using. However, there is a basic format which should be used. Due to time constraints on each class, members should develop their own shorthand for taking notes. The less time spent on taking notes, the more time available for decision making.

The standard format for taking notes can be found on the **TAKING NOTES HANDOUT**.

### Format

Reasons should be organized, logical and easy to listen to. The following format will help students to organize their thoughts and to present them with confidence.



### Outline for a Set of Reasons

1. Opening Statement
  - a. Name of class
  - b. Placing
  - c. Superlative statement about the top animal
  - d. Descriptive criticism of the top animal
2. Top Pair
  - a. Talk 1st over 2nd using comparative terminology
  - b. Grant 2nd over 1st using comparative terminology
  - c. Criticize 2nd with descriptive terminology
3. Middle Pair
  - a. Talk 2nd over 3rd using comparative terminology
  - b. Grant 3rd over 2nd using comparative terminology
  - c. Criticize 3rd with descriptive terminology



## BACKGROUND BASICS...continued

### 4. Bottom Pair

- a. Talk 3rd over 4th using comparative terminology
- b. Grant 4th over 3rd using comparative terminology
- c. Criticize 4th with superlative and descriptive terminology

### **Making Comparisons**

Comparisons should be made by using superlative, comparative, and descriptive terminology.

Superlatives include terminology containing most, best, worst, least or adjectives ending in “est”. This terminology compares one animal to the remaining animals within the class. These superlative statements should only be used in the opening statement and in criticism of the fourth placed animal.

For example...“I placed the market steers 1234 starting with the stoutest made, heaviest muscled, highest volumed steer. I realize, 1 is not the nicest balanced.”

Within the top, middle, and bottom pairs it is appropriate to use comparative terminology, or terms ending in “er” when comparing two animals to each other.

For example...“Even so, I liked 1 over 2 as he was a heavier muscled, better bodied steer. Granted, 2 was longer bodied and leveler hippered.”

Criticisms are most effective when describing an animal’s individual weaknesses.

For example... “however, I criticize 2 and placed him second as he was a somewhat flat ribbed steer that narrows out of his hip.” This criticism will stand on its own in describing 2s deficiencies, and is more effective than comparative criticism.

An example of comparative criticism would be...“however, I criticize 2 and place him second as he is flatter ribbed and narrower hippered than 1....” Although this maybe a true statement, it tells the reasons taken no more about number 2 than what we have already stated when giving 1s advantages over 2 in the top pair.

### **Support and Patience Required!**

Proficiency in oral reasons is not achieved overnight. It takes dedication and patience to develop the oral reasons skills required to be competitive. You will find that this will be the greatest area of frustration for most youth. Therefore, your diligence and patience are important in helping youth overcome the obstacles in the presentation of oral reasons.



# INTRODUCTION

Communication holds the key to your future. Being able to express your beliefs, goals and opinions is a skill that will help you relate with people throughout your lifetime.

## DO

### WHAT'S YOUR LINE

- Distribute TAKING NOTES Handout and go over the format and information contained with youth.
- Pass out BLANK TAKING NOTES Handout and have youth take notes on a class of sunglasses.
- Hand out MAJOR SPEAK UP Points and REASONS FORMAT.
- Have youth prepare a set of oral reasons on the class of sunglasses.
- Allow youth 20 minutes to prepare.
- Randomly assign a reasons order.
- Listen to the youths' reasons and offer constructive criticism and acknowledge the good points.
- As the youth become more adept at giving oral reasons, assign several sets back to back, allowing each member to have 15 to 20 minutes between sets of reasons.

## REFLECT

- How did the TAKING NOTES Handout help you reorganize the class information?
- Why is it important to abbreviate while taking notes for reasons?  
**Saves time; note taking should take the least amount of time possible. You need time to look at and analyze the class so you will remember the animals later.**
- How did taking notes help you organize your thoughts for oral reasons?
- How will this information help you in the future?



## APPLY

- Have youth divide into pairs and give a set of oral reasons to each other at the same time. This will develop their availability to concentrate on the task at hand.
- Videotape reasons and critique reasons with the individual.
- Ask questions on each class.

**\*NOTE\*** Answers are usually the id# of one animal in the class, or T/F, yes/no. Sometimes questions are used that require the number of animals in the class which meet certain criteria. (ex: how many bulls are polled? Answer 2)

The old saying "Practice Makes Perfect" must have been said with oral reasons in mind. Developing your livestock judging vocabulary, learning to take notes, and memorizing the basic reasons format takes time.



# MAJOR SPEAK UP POINTS

**ACCURACY** of statements—Above all, what the member says must be correct.

**CONCISENESS** of statements—Members should provide specific explanations and avoid general statements.

**COMPLETENESS**—All important characteristics must be covered.

**EMPHASIS** of the most important characteristics of the two animals being compared.

**VOCABULARY**—Members should exhibit a knowledge of livestock terminology.

**VARIATION** in use of terms—Members should avoid excessive repetition.

**GRAMMAR**—Members should use good grammar, much like writing.

**DELIVERY**—Presentation should be persuasive, sincere and clear. Be natural and comfortable. Be confident, but not loud or arrogant.

**ENUNCIATION** of words should be clear and understandable. Remember to open your mouth, to use your jaw and mouth to clearly enunciate each syllable.

**VOICE INFLECTION** should be used to provide emphasis.

**MODULATION** of voice—Speak clear and loud, but remember to account for room size and listener distance.

**ORGANIZATION** of reasons, should be easily followed by the listener.

**EYE-TO-EYE CONTACT** to help keep listener interested.

**NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION**— movement of the eyes, eyebrows, head, shoulders and torso can emphasize points. This is not to be taken as extreme animation, which could be distracting.

**POSTURE**— Members should stand with feet shoulder width apart, the upper body should be leaning slightly forward to show enthusiasm and hands should be held together either in front or back of the body.

**PRESENTATION**—Members should wear nice, comfortable clothing. Gestures and noises should be avoided while presenting oral reasons.





## REASONS FORMAT

INTRODUCTION ? I placed the \_\_\_\_\_ (CLASS NAME) 1-2-3-4, starting with the 1)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ est, 2) \_\_\_\_\_ est, 3) \_\_\_\_\_ est  
 (ANIMAL) in the class. Ideally, my class winner could have been \_\_\_\_\_.

TOP PAIR ? But even so, in my top pair, I selected 1 over 2 because 1 was

1)\_\_\_\_\_er, and 2)\_\_\_\_\_er than 2. \*COMPARE\* I admit

that 2 was \_\_\_\_\_ than 1. \*GRANT\* But, I criticized 2, and placed it

second, because 2 was  (DESCRIPTIVE CRITICISM) . \*CRITICIZE\*

MIDDLE PAIR ☐ In my middle pair, I selected 2 over 3 because 2 was

1) \_\_\_\_\_er, and 2) \_\_\_\_\_er than 3. \*COMPARE\* I admit

that 3 was \_\_\_\_\_ than 2. \*GRANT\* But, I criticized 3, and placed it

third, because 3 was \_\_\_\_\_(DESCRIPTIVE CRITICISM). \*CRITICIZE\*

BOTTOM PAIR 7 In final pair, I chose 3 over 4 because 3 was \_\_\_\_\_er,  
and \_\_\_\_\_er than 4. \*COMPARE\* I realize that 4 was  
\_\_\_\_\_er than 3, \*GRANT\* but placed 3 last, because it was the \_\_\_\_\_est,  
est, and \_\_\_\_\_est (ANIMAL) in the class.\*CRITICIZE\*



# TAKING NOTES HANDOUT

1)		
2)		
3)		
4)		
COMPARE	GRANT	CRITICIZE
COMPARE	GRANT	CRITICIZE
COMPARE	GRANT	CRITICIZE



## Taking Notes Handout with Animal Descriptions

**1-Red Baldy- Well Muscled, Extended, True Moving, A Little Underfinished**

**2-Char Cross- Heavy Muscled, Correctly Finished, Straight Shouldered, Coarse Fronted**

**3-Black Baldy- Extended, Straight Lined, Correctly Finished, Light Muscled**

**4-Black- Heavy Muscled, Correctly Finished, Well Balanced, Little Round Hipped**

<b>Comparison</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Criticism</b>
<b>Comparison</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Criticism</b>
<b>Comparison</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Criticism</b>



# SAMPLE NOTES

with Animal Descriptions, Pair Comparisons, and Descriptive Criticisms

1—Red Baldy—*well muscled, extended, true moving, a little underfinished*

2—Char Cross—*heaviest muscled, correctly finished, straight shouldered, coarse fronted, light boned*

3—Black Baldy—*extended, straight lined, correctly finished, light muscled*

4—Black—*stout, heavy muscled, correctly finished, well-balanced, a little round hipped*

<b>4/2</b> <b>Stouter</b> <b>B. Balance</b>	<b>2/4</b> <b>H. Muscled</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Coarse, Straight</b> <b>Shouldered</b>
<b>2/1</b> <b>H. Muscled</b> <b>M. Correctly</b> <b>Finished</b>	<b>1/2</b> <b>Better</b> <b>Structured</b>	<b>1</b> <b>Thin finished</b> <b>Flattens in quarter</b>
<b>1/3</b> <b>Stouter</b> <b>H. Muscled</b>	<b>3/1</b> <b>M. Correctly</b> <b>Finished</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Lightest Muscled</b>





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**Name**

**4-H Club Motto**

**"To make the best better"**

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**Address**

**4-H Pledge**

**I Pledge:**

**My head to clearer thinking**

**My heart to greater loyalty**

**My hands to larger service, and**

**My health to better living**

**for my club, my community,**

**my country, and my world.**

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**Name of Club/School**

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**Leader/Teacher's Name**

**4-H Colors**

**Green and White**



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**The University of Florida 4-H Youth Development Program, UF/IFAS Extension, January 2012.**

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