

Planning Your Adventure

Step 1. Let's Begin (check off what you plan to do)

- Discuss your ideas with family, friends, and of course, your project helper.
 - Check books about your topic at the library before you begin.
 - Visit web pages that provide more information about your topic.
 - Check your county's project guidelines (if any) for additional requirements, especially if you choose to participate in county project judging or prepare an exhibit for the fair.
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Step 2. Learning Experiences

Choose at least two learning experiences from the list below (or create your own). Write them in the table below. Record your progress by asking your project helper to initial next to the date each one is completed. You may add to or change these activities at any time.

- Attend a clinic, workshop, demonstration, or speech on a topic related to your project.
- Prepare a public service announcement for school radio, television, or the Internet on a topic related to your project.
- Help organize a club activity on this project.
- Prepare your own demonstration, illustrated talk, or exhibit.
- Participate in county judging.

Learning Experience	Date Completed	Project Helper Initials
<i>(Example) Demonstration: Showed different sizes of model railroad cars to club members.</i>		

Step 3. Leadership/Citizenship Activities

Choose at least two leadership/citizenship activities from the list below (or create your own). Write them in the table below. Record your progress by asking your project helper to initial next to the date each one is completed. You may add to or change these activities at any time.

- Assist in setting up and/or cleaning up for a show or event.
- Help someone with his or her project.
- Help organize a workshop or show in your community.
- Encourage a friend to join 4-H and take a project.
- Teach someone something you learned about 4-H or your topic.
- Invite someone to talk to your club about your topic.
- Give advice to a member who is preparing a project for the fair.
- Prepare and exhibit a display promoting your topic or 4-H.

Leadership/Citizenship Activity	Date Completed	Project Helper Initials
<i>(Example) Helped younger members et up a model railroad.</i>	<i>8/11/YR</i>	<i>BH</i>

Step 4. Conducting Your Adventure

Every self-determined project is broken down into areas of interest. These are the specific things you wish to explore during your project adventure. In the space provided on the next page, identify at least three areas of interest with at least three activities per area.

If you are using an Idea Starter, you will find suggested areas of interest and things to do there.

Ask your project helper to initial next to the date each one is completed.

(Example) My first area of interest is to *plan a layout.*

Activity 1: *Locate a reference book on model railroading to use during the project.*

Activity 2: *Create a track plan for a model railroad.*

Activity 3: *Identify a knowledgeable person who is willing to help.*

Activity 4: *Talk with parents about where to put a layout.*

Date completed: *4/18/YR* **Project helper initials:** *BH*

Conducting Your Adventure (continued)

My first area of interest is to _____

Activity 1: _____

Activity 2: _____

Activity 3: _____

Activity 4: _____

Date completed: _____ Project helper initials: _____

My second area of interest is to _____

Activity 1: _____

Activity 2: _____

Activity 3: _____

Activity 4: _____

Date completed: _____ Project helper initials: _____

My third area of interest is to _____

Activity 1: _____

Activity 2: _____

Activity 3: _____

Activity 4: _____

Date completed: _____ Project helper initials: _____

My fourth area of interest is to _____

Activity 1: _____

Activity 2: _____

Activity 3: _____

Activity 4: _____

Date completed: _____ Project helper initials: _____

Step 5: Reporting Your Adventure

Title of Project: _____

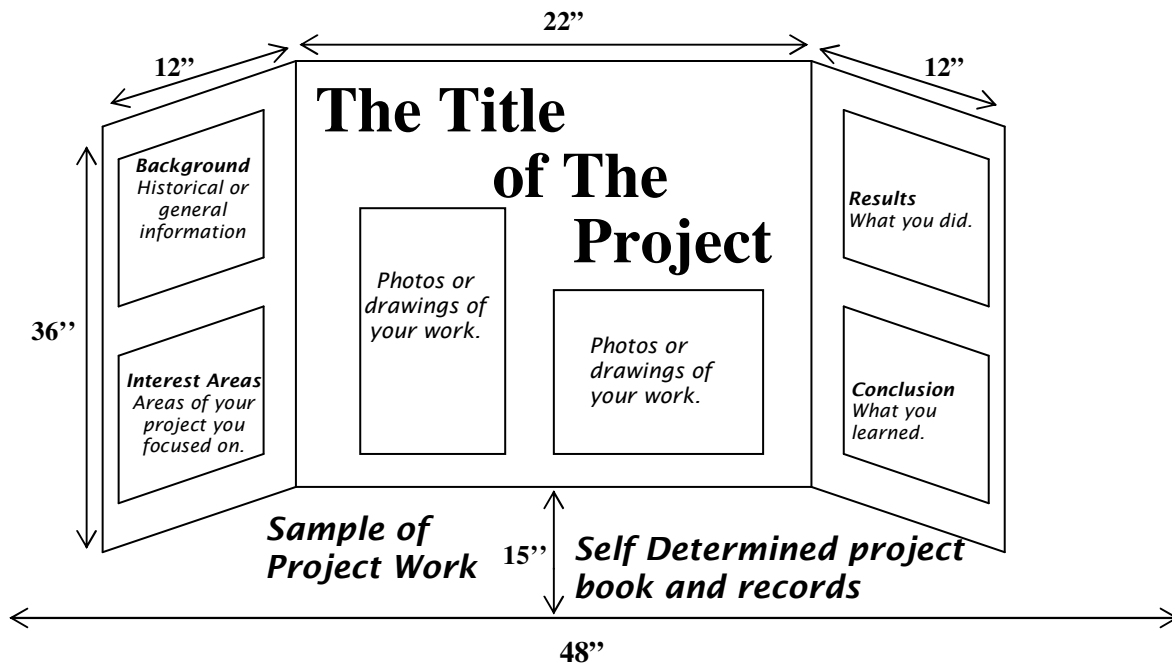
Background: Historical or general information about your topic.

Results: What you did in the project.

Conclusion: Summary of what you learned.

Step 6: Your Educational Display

Your display is a way of showing others what your project is about. The display alone is not the project, but it is nevertheless important. As with all parts of your project, you should take time to do it right. The diagram below gives the components and their placement for a basic 3-sided display. However, your own creativity will determine how your display looks. In your own words, use narrative and/or bulleted points for the sections labeled Background, Areas of Interest, Results, and conclusion.



Material - The display board itself can be handmade or purchased. Each participant will be limited to a 48" wide by 15" deep tabletop display space. Participants are encouraged to display their project work on a 36" high by 48" wide cardboard tri-fold display board with 12" wings.

Color - Before you go any further, decide what colors you will use. If your background needs painting, an acrylic paint works best. Choose contrasting colors for lettering. If you are in doubt about your combination, get another opinion.

Lettering- Your title can be cut out of construction paper, poster paper, or other materials and attached (taped or glued) to the display board. Display boards can also be lettered by hand, first in pencil, and then retraced in marker.

Drawings - Drawings and sketches should always be drawn in pencil first and then retraced.

Photos - Every project display does not need photos, but if you have a camera, you might consider recording your progress. If photos are included with your project records, they should be placed at the end. Photos on your display board should be labeled.

Your Presentation to the Judges

You must consider your presentation as important as any other part of your project. Practice will make the difference in how well you present yourself to the judges. Here is a step-by-step approach to organizing the ten minutes you have with your judge(s):

1. Introduce yourself.
2. Give the title of your project.
3. Explain the background of your project.
4. Tell the judges how you got interested in your project topic.
5. Explain your areas of interest.
6. Talk about your results. If you have charts, graphs or a notebook, show them to the judges and explain them. If results are shown on your display, point them out. Also be sure to show them a sample of your project work.
7. Explain what you have learned. If you think that you had some problems or error in your project, don't be afraid to admit these.
8. Tell the judges what you might do in the future to continue your project. What would you have done differently if you were to do the project again?
9. Of what interest would your project be to other 4-H members?



10. "Do you have any questions?" If you do not know the answer to a judge's question, then say, "I am sorry, but I do not know the answer, but I think ..."
11. Thank the judges.

Other Tips for Presenting

It is very important to use your time well. You will want to impress your judges with your project, your knowledge and your enthusiasm. All people are affected in one way or another by the way we look, the way we talk, and the way we act. Adults are usually impressed with good manners and nice clothes. Here are some tips:

- Wear nice clothes.
- Stand up straight on both feet. Don't sway from foot to foot.
- Look straight into the eyes of your judges. Pay attention to your Judge(s).
- Stand to the side of your exhibit when talking.
- Get the judge(s) involved in your project. Let them see, taste, smell, hear or hold a sample of your project work. Point out important points using your display.
- Speak loudly enough to be heard both judge(s).
- Smile and be polite.

www.ohio4h.org/selfdetermined



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