TAMING THE DEMONSTRATION LION

Helpful Hints for 4-H Demonstrations

Too often we let 4-H Demonstrations get the better of us and they become an uncontrollable lion that seems to swallow us alive. But they can be tamed by remembering a few helpful hints.

There are 6 easy taming rules to follow!

TAMING RULE 1  The Introduction

If someone has already introduced you; that is, told your name, club and demonstration title
DO NOT REPEAT IT! If they haven’t it is a good idea to tell your audience who you are.

But remember; this is not considered your demonstration introduction. We all know a demonstration has 3 parts: introduction, body and summary. Your introduction should:

1. Get the audience’s attention
2. Tell why you are demonstrating
3. Say why and the audience should listen

This Demonstration Lion Was Easily Tamed!
**The Body** of your demonstration should:

1. Show logical order
2. Combine talking and doing; that is always talk while your working if possible. Fill in with extra information relating to your demonstration
3. Show step by step procedure, but it is not necessary for you to always complete the entire product. For example, only sew part of a seam, or only shape part of a roll dough

**Taming Rule 2**

**The Summary**

Your **Summary!**

**Don’t forget it!**

Your summary is just as important as your introduction and body and must be included. For a good summary:

1. Don’t read through your posters step by step
2. Select 3 or 4 important facts to review
3. Give handouts if appropriate, especially with recipes
4. State your source of information and have copies available if possible
5. Ask for questions and restate the question before answering

Repeating a question helps those in the room who may not have heard it originally.
**Organization** creates a great impression. Make sure to:

1. Keep your area clean
   a. Work on newspaper if you are messy
   b. Tape a paper bag to the table for trash
   c. Always carry a damp cloth for dirty fingers and to wipe the table before and after the demonstration

2. Keep the demonstration area free of clutter. The audience needs to see what you are doing. Special note for Foods demonstrations:
   a. Work on waxed paper or dish towel.
   b. Use clear bowls and wooden spoons (they make less noise).
   c. Use trays - Place to one side with all materials on it.
   d. Show finished product. Provide samples for judges.

I. Clear off work area entirely.

II. Show product attractively, may offer serving suggestions

III. Keep hidden until ready to display.

IV. Hand out recipes.

3. Be able to handle any equipment with familiarity. Bring extension cords for electric equipment.

**Posters & Visual Aids**

Posters are very important in your demonstration. Here are some helpful hints.

1. Use a pointer

2. When beginning your demonstration or when appropriate show a title poster; don’t start with title poster showing.

3. Handle your posters from the back to the front, it’s easier

4. Keep them clean and flat, don’t roll them

**Other types of visual aids are:**

- Charts
- Flip Charts
- Flannel Boards
- Models
- Actual objects

**Posters Should be:**

- Neat
- Sturdy
- Eye Catching
- Simple
- Readable
- Colorful, but not gaudy
- Stress or explain one point

Posters are so important, please look at these Do’s and Don’ts

**Remember**

- Fact 1
- Fact 2
- Fact 3
Keep the attention focused on the demonstration, not you

Be poised:
A. Speak slowly
B. Loudly
C. Enunciate clearly
D. Be enthusiastic

Keep your appearance neat and well groomed.
1. Dress appropriately but conservatively
2. If working with food, tie your hair back
3. Keep hair out of your face - bangs, stray ends

Keep posters the same size

Use one color for letters within a word

Use solid letters that look like this:

LOOK

Space your words to use the entire poster

Letters should be 2-3” tall

Mix upper and lower case letters

Stick with one color for all lettering

Use drawings or samples to attract attention

Stick to one main idea

Use a minimum of 2 posters

Taming Rule

Your Appearance

Doing a Team Demonstration?
(Special handling is required)

1. Be sure the demonstration is difficult enough for two people
2. Divide the working and talking evenly
3. Dress similarly
4. Introduce yourselves so the audience knows who is who

Don’t panic if something goes wrong!

Now the lion has been tamed and you are well on your way to being a GREAT DEMONSTRATOR!

Lions are just big kitty cats grown tall!