

**teach someone how** to ride a skateboard? or tie a shoe? or stitch a seam? or saddle a horse? That's a demonstration. Demonstrations are just showing and telling someone else how to do something.

OR, did you ever show someone your vacation pictures and souvenirs, or help a classmate with math problems? Then you've done an illustrated talk. For illustrated talks, you use maps or charts or posters or graphs or pictures or slides or models to explain what you're saying.

OR MAYBE you've showed someone how to put a model rocket together and used the instruction book to help you explain what to do. That's part demonstration and part illustrated talk.

ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT, you've probably been giving demonstrations all your life. You probably just need to polish up your demonstration skills a little and get used to showing and telling several people at once.

## So . . . Let's Demonstrate because . . .

. . . it's a good way to share what you've learned in your 4-H project.

. . . and you can learn even more about something if you share what you know.

. . . and it helps you learn to be more poised and confident.

. . . and you can learn to express yourself more easily.

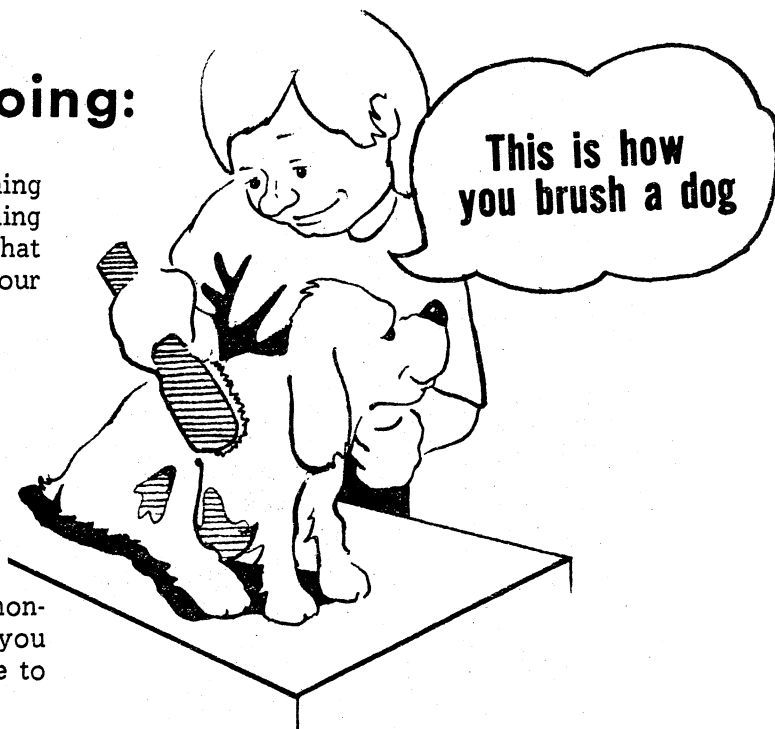
. . . and, most of all, it's fun to do!

## Here's how to get going:

Your 4-H Club is a good place to start brushing up on your demonstrations. Think of something you like to do, or something you've learned that you'd like to share with the other 4-H'ers in your club. What is it? Write it right here:

and show what you've written to your 4-H leader. Ask your leader when you can do the demonstration at your 4-H Club.

And, don't worry now about whether your demonstration is perfect. Just show something that you already know about, enjoy doing and are able to show in a few minutes.



## And now for the "big time" (4-H contest-type demonstrations)



The first step: Decide what you want to demonstrate. Your 4-H projects are probably the best source of ideas. You won't be able to tell all you've learned in a project, so choose a subject that you can demonstrate or talk about in the allotted time.

Here's an example: You are enrolled in a 4-H welding project, and have been working in a welding shop. What could you show about welding? You might like to talk about choosing the best welding equipment. You could plan to bring some of the equipment, and make posters or pictures of the other equipment that you can't bring.

Or you may be enrolled in a foods project, and can do a demonstration on making a salad. In that case, you would bring the food and equipment and probably wouldn't have posters.

Maybe you want to talk about raising a crop. If you like to take pictures, a slide show of the stages of growing the crop may be just the thing, if you plan ahead.

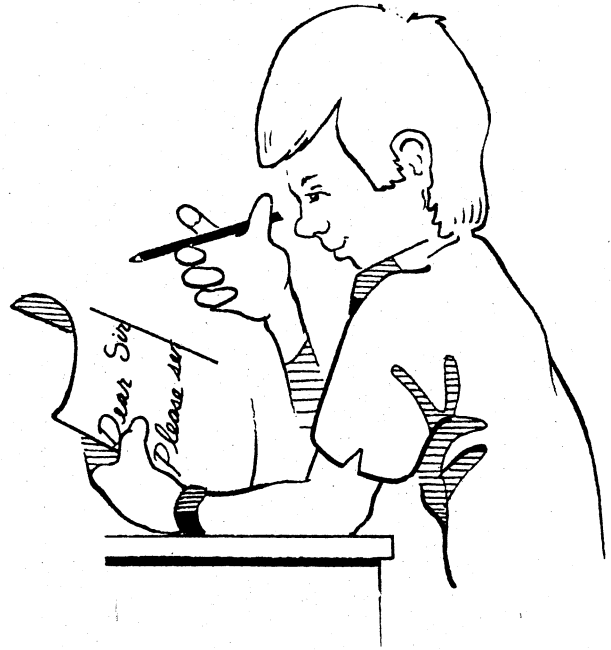
Talk to your 4-H leaders. They can help you select a demonstration topic.

Got it? Good! Give yourself a happy face.

## Keep going! And . . .

. . . gather all the information you can about the topic you select. Think about all the people and places you could visit to learn more about your topic. Where can you get what you need to know and show for your demonstration? Could you find what you need at a grocery store? Or by talking to a farmer? Or at a crafts fair? At your County 4-H Office? What about the library? Or do you need to write to a company for information?

Did you say that you couldn't find enough information on what you wanted to demonstrate? And you've talked to everyone you think could help? If that's the case, you may want to select another idea. (Don't forget to give yourself another happy face!)



## Get it together! It's easy as 1-2-3-4!



After you have selected your topic and gathered the information and supplies, it's time to get it together. Don't worry about the title of your talk yet. You will probably get a great idea for a title as you work on your demonstration. Let's look at the four parts of a demonstration:

### 1 - Introduction

At the beginning, or introduction, you need to make a good impression. You have a chance to really grab the interest of the audience. Think about how you can present your demonstration in the most interesting way. Which is better?

"I'm going to show you how to grow houseplants from these vegetable tops and seeds that you would usually throw away."

-OR-

"I've been down in the dumps lately, just looking for seeds and vegetable tops that you might have thrown away. I grow houseplants from them - and you can, too!"

## 2 - Body

The middle, or body, is the “meat” of the demonstration. That’s when you actually demonstrate or show what you came to do. If you’re going to demonstrate how to grow house plants from garbage, these might be things you will want to discuss:

- Selecting good garbage
- Selecting containers and soil
- Planting the garbage
- Caring for the houseplants

Of course, you will need to fill in the information from your selected topic. You will need to decide if you want actual objects or visual aids, or both, in your demonstration.

Everything visual you use in your demonstration should:

- Attract attention
- Be simple and neat
- Serve a real purpose
- Be easy to use
- Be easily seen
- Fit smoothly into the presentation

## 3 - Conclusion

By the end, or conclusion of your demonstration, you want to have the audience so excited that they will want to know more, or maybe even go out and do what you have showed them. Which is the best ending for a demonstration?

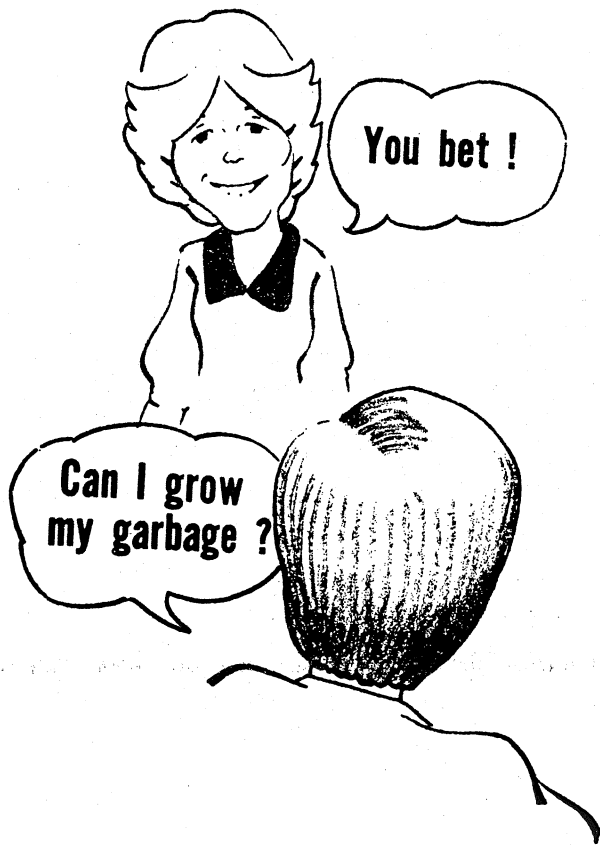
“Today I have told you how to select plants, containers and soil, and plant and care for plants from garbage. I hope that I have helped you.”

-OR-

“There’s a world of houseplants in your garbage, and they won’t cost you a penny. Now that I’ve showed you how to grow them, why not go home and try it? You don’t have a thing to lose!”

Did we say there are four parts to a demonstration? Of course! And this part is when that research you did on your demonstration is going to pay off again!





## 4 - Questions

Questions and answers are the fourth part. Be calm, be cool, and be prepared for something like this:

Judge: Which plants from garbage grow best?

You: I've had better luck with carrot tops than with anything else, but you may find that avocado pits are easier for you.

What if you can't answer?

Judge: Can you tell me how the nitrogen in the soil affects the growth of avocado seeds?

You: I'm sorry, I can't. But if you'd like to give me your address, I'll try to find out for you. (And then be sure to follow through, even if it means writing to say that you still aren't able to answer.)

In other words, don't fake it. If you don't know the answer, admit it, and offer to find out.

## More tips

Those are the basics of a good demonstration. It's not as hard as you thought, is it? It just takes planning and practice, and practice, and practice.

When you practice, ask your friends, family, 4-H leaders, teachers or whoever you can get, to listen to you and make suggestions. Ask them to look at the score card on the back of this book and give you some help on how you can improve your talk or demonstration.

Here are some tips for you that will help explain the score card:

- Speak loudly and distinctly enough to be heard, and use good grammar.
- If you goof and you think people will notice, apologize and go on. But don't keep apologizing. Everybody makes mistakes!
- Dress comfortably, but attractively. Smile, and stand tall!
- Introduce your topic in an interesting way.
- Make sure your information is up-to-date and correct.
- Use visuals or objects that can be seen easily.
- Practice with your visuals and equipment so that you work with ease.
- End your demonstration with flair, perhaps challenging the audience.
- If you use finished products, display them attractively. Make sure that your demonstration accomplished what you want to do.
- Answer questions clearly, but don't be afraid to admit you don't know.

**Now**

**. . . Go For It!**

Here's an outline form you can use for planning your demonstration:

Title of demonstration \_\_\_\_\_

How you plan to introduce your demonstration:

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Equipment and Supplies Needed: \_\_\_\_\_

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Main Points you will cover in the demonstration: \_\_\_\_\_

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How you plan to end your demonstration: \_\_\_\_\_

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Questions you think you may be asked about your demonstration: \_\_\_\_\_

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What are some other groups besides 4-H who would be interested in hearing and seeing your demonstration?