

4-H Nova Scotia Judging Tools

There are several tools to help you with the judging process. They are the judging card, placing the class and giving reasons. Let's take a closer look.

The Judging Card:

 CANADA 4-H Nova Scotia	PLACINGS	REASONS	TOTAL
Contestant's Name: _____	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
County/Club: _____			
Age as of January 1 st : _____ Jr. _____ Sr. _____			
Class: _____			
Placing: 1 st _____ 2 nd _____ 3 rd _____ 4 th _____			

- The judge fills your scores in here. Placings are worth 50 points and reasons are worth 50 points for a total of 100.
- Clearly print your first and last name.
- Include your club or county.
- Be specific, i.e. decorative candles not crafts
- Place the numbers on the item in the class in the order you placed them (1st is most ideal, 4th is least ideal).

Placing the Class:

The idea of judging is to compare the whole class to the ideal. The item nearest the ideal will be placed first, the next closest to the ideal second and so on for the four placings. Always keep in mind the important characteristics on the score card for the specific class.

Base your placing on the main features of the class. If there are two items that are very similar on main features, then you decide on smaller, less important points.

It is very important to take your time, allow yourself about 15 minutes to place a class and give reasons. Picture each item clearly in your head. This will help you remember the features of each when giving your reasons.

Fill out your placing on the judging card. Remember to put the number of the best item in 1st and so on down to the bottom placing in 4th.

Don't listen to comments from other members talking about the class. Don't compare your placing with others - trust your judging ability.

Giving Reasons:

The reasons tell the judge what you looked at when placing the class and which features were compared. It is your opportunity to convince the judge that your placing is correct. When giving your reasons, keep the following in mind:

- ✓ Speaking with confidence tells the judge you believe in what you are saying and that you have sound reasons for your placing.
- ✓ Stand or sit with good posture and look the judge in the eye. Relax using gestures and a natural voice, loud enough to be understood but not too loudly.
- ✓ Do not chew gum or wear a hat unless for sun protection.
- ✓ Use correct terminology and grammar.
- ✓ Organize your reasons in a logical order. Begin with obvious differences and then mention the less obvious points.
- ✓ Use comparisons to tell why one item is placed higher than another. Use comparative terms when giving reasons. Words like bigger, brighter, taller, straighter, and phrases like "more than" and "less than" ensure comparisons are made.
- ✓ Give accurate reasons, do not give ones that do not apply. You will be penalized for using wrong information.
- ✓ Reasons should be concise, clear and convincing, using the main points that determined the placing. Remember that quantity does not always give quality. You should take no more than 2 minutes to present your reasons. Mention a close or easy placing. In some classes there may be only one reason for a placing.

Reason Format:

This format is very important because it lets the judge know you have started, puts the reasons in a logical order and lets the judge know you have finished your reasons.

I place this class of _____ , _____
Name of Class *Placings, i.e. 4, 3, 2, 1*

I place _____ at the top of the class and over _____ because _____
Number *Number*

Explain why

I place _____ over _____ because _____
Number *Number* *Reasons*

I place _____ over _____ because _____
Number *Number* *Reasons*

I place _____ at the bottom of the class because _____
Number *Reasons*

For these reasons, I place this class of _____ , _____
Class Name *Placings*