Lost in Translation:
Judging Notes to Oral Reasons

- Lots of 4-H’ers take great notes and place the class correctly **but** do not translate that to oral reasons
  - “Jumping off” point of this presentation
  - Focus:
    - Note structure
    - Notes to abbreviated notes
    - Abbreviated notes to oral reasons
    - Importance of a “Reasons Arsenal”
Oral Reasons Overview

- Opportunity to defend placings
  - Concise, accurate
  - Opening statement, 3 pairs, closing statement
  - Two-minute time limit

- Knowledge of judged class is imperative!

Notes Structure

- Successful oral reasoning begins with good notes
  - Organized!
  - Set up the same way for every class
  - Detailed
    - Write legibly, use shorthand
    - Top half of paper
  - Always include “key” elements:
    - Class Name
    - Class Placing
    - Horse/rider identification
    - Commendations relevant to class
    - Faults relevant to class
** Notes by Maya Wisdom**
- 4-H’er, Richland Co
- OSU Horse Judging Team
- Vet school, Lincoln Memorial

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Notes-How should you organize your paper?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Class</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Flowery</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horse 1, Color</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Marking</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse 3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Horse 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse 5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Horse 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Reasons
  - Top pair 1/2
  - Middle 3/5
  - Bottom 3/4

- Horse 1 Grant
- Horse 2 Fault
- Horse 3 Grant
- Horse 4 Grant
- Horse 5 Grant
- Horse 6 Grant
Notes to Abbreviated Notes

• After you have placed class:
  • Transfer detailed class placing notes to abbreviated reasons notes
    • Bottom half of paper
  • Two commendations for top horse in each pair
    • Grant for bottom horse in each pair
      • Optional for last place horse
    • Fault for bottom horse in each pair
  • Goal is to use key terms/phrases and expand using your “Reasons Arsenal”
Notes- Bottom Half of the Paper

Commendation # 1
Commendation # 2
Grant 2nd place horse
Fault 2nd place horse
Commendation # 1
Commendation # 2
Grant 3rd place horse
Fault 3rd place horse
Commendation # 1
Commendation # 2
Grant 4th place horse
Fault 4th place horse

Mini opening statement

Abbreviated Notes to Oral Reasons

• “Visualize class”?#$%
  • Tough to do several hours later!

• Visualize key terms/phrases!
  • Expand utilizing “Reasons Arsenal”
  • Organization crucial
  • Practice crucial

**Goal isn’t to memorize your reasons but a few key terms and build around them!**
Building Your Reasons Arsenal

• **MUST** put terms in your “arsenal”
  - Class Lingo
    - Comparative- horse 1 vs horse 2
    - Class specific
    - Longer, leaner, slower, etc.
  - Opening & closing statements
    - Mini pair openers
  - Grant statements
    - “I grant”, “I realize”, “I readily admit”, etc.
  - Connective- reasons flow from one idea to another
    - Additionally, furthermore, in addition, moreover, etc.

Practice Makes Perfect

• Practice out loud
  - A LOT!
  - At home, car, shower, etc.
  - Form a habit
  - Cramming rarely successful

• Give reasons to many different people

• Always give reasons as if you were at a contest

• Work on incorporating new terms and use them!
  - Expand “Reasons Arsenal!”
Example Reasons

Beginner

Advanced

Resources


• Kansas State Oral Reasons DVD: https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/judging-dvds.html

• Joh Wolf’s Perfect Practice Oral Reasons DVDs (#5 & #12): http://www.perfectpracticedvds.com/dvds.htm
A Different Look at Delivery