

Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better

Intended Audience

- 4-H club members

Lesson Objectives:

Club members and parents will:

- Learn and practice interview skills
- Gain confidence
- Prepare for 4-H project judging

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies:

- Handouts:
 - “Tips for a Successful Interview.”
- Resources:
 - “Practice Interview Questions” cards

Do Ahead:

- Review lesson
- Gather equipment and supplies
- Copy handouts, one per member
- Copy and cut out “Practice Interview Questions” cards

“Communication is a skill that you can learn. It's like riding a bicycle or typing. If you're willing to work at it, you can rapidly improve the quality of every part of your life.”

Brian Tracy

Practice + Prepare = Successful Project Interview

BACKGROUND

Communication is a life skill. By becoming comfortable in talking with others, 4-H members can improve the quality of their lives, both now and in the future. Portraying oneself in a positive, confident manner can increase success during job and scholarship interviews, while serving as a club officer, or when working with a group or team.

4-H project interviews are a great way for members to develop and practice communication skills, including interviewing and speaking. Project interviews are an important part of the learning experience. They provide members with opportunities to share with a caring adult what they've learned in their project and to get ideas on how they can learn even more.

It is important to be prepared for project interview judging so members can shine, share and sharpen their skills. On the big day, members may have mixed feelings ranging from excitement to nervousness. Preparing for project interviews through practice and reviewing the project book can help eliminate apprehension and send a 4-H'er into interview day with confidence.

Remember, honesty during their interview is critical, so “I don't know” is an okay answer to give the judge.

Participating in a practice one-on-one interview will help members have a valuable, positive learning experience. Practice + Prepare = Successful Project Interview!



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Sources:

- Bonnie Malone and Bruce Zimmer. "Project Interview Videos Discussion Guide and Interview Judging Tips for 4-H Members" 2013; <http://go.osu.edu/4HVideosforclubs>

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WHAT TO DO**Activity:** Mock Interview

1. Have each older, experienced member (Interviewer) pair off with a younger, less-experienced member (Member).
2. Give each Interviewer a set of sample interview question cards and have him/her select five questions.
3. Instruct the Interviewer to ask the Member the questions, allowing time for response after each question.

Option – Make it a Group Activity

The Club Advisor/Volunteer selects a question, then calls on an older member to answer. The older member shows, by example, how to effectively answer the question.

TALK IT OVER**Reflect:**

- Why do we have 4-H project interviews?
- What are some tips to prepare for project interviews?
- If you were the judge, what interview questions might you ask?
- When answering a question, is it okay to tell the judge, "I don't know"?

Apply:

- Why do you think it is important to improve your communication/ speaking skills?
- How can you apply these skills beyond your interview?