

Tips on Writing the 4-H Story

The 4-H story is much like the final chapter of a book because the story summarizes and ties together the total 4-H year's activities. It is an essay that include highlight of your 4-H experiences, involvement, projects, leadership and work within the club, community, county/state. The story should be more than just about the fair and ribbons won. 4-H is a year round program and the story should tell about experiences and learning from throughout the year.

The 4-H story is limited to six 8 ½ x 11" pages on one side only. It may be typed, computer generated or written by hand. If typed or word processor is used, it should be double spaced. If hand written, you may use your choice of pencil or ink and printed or cursive. It's generally recommended that you do whatever you are doing in school. Proper sentence structure, paragraph structure, accuracy, grammar and spelling are part of the process and should be age appropriate for the 4-H member.

Here are some suggestions of things you might want to include in you 4-H story. These are only ideas to get you started.

- Things you feel good about --- fun and rewarding experiences
- New things you learned in your projects
- Include details about your major projects
- Difficulties or problems you had in your project, how you solved them,
- Ways you helped others --- members, leaders, and other in school/community
- Give credit to people who helped you
- How did your project(s) help you grow – new information, skills, leadership, citizenship
- What you learned about your project from keeping records – ie costs, savings, equipment, time, new skills, etc.
- Talks and demonstrations
- Community service involvement related to your projects – or club activities
- Recognition you received that meant a lot to you. It is not necessary to list all ribbons and placings of exhibits since they are already in your permanent record.
- Older members often include insights into their personal growth and development, applying 4-H skills to other situations, using 4-H learning to lead toward jobs, etc.
- Goals reached and accomplished. Plans for the coming 4-H year, career, future.

The 4-H story is also an opportunity for you to use your creativity or flair in writing. This is an added "plus" to your 4-H story and shows some of your personality. Some idea starters include:

- The 4-H year from your horse's viewpoint (or other animal)
- Month by month highlights of things you did/learned
- Sports analogies – starting on first base, learning skills moving to second, etc.
- People that were a part of your 4-H year – club president, project leaders, being a project leader, camp counselor, etc.
- Use a quote, poem, or story as an introduction