



Textiles and Clothing —Evaluation Philosophy—

When judging items constructed by the 4-H'er, New York supports this concept found in the 4-H helper/leader and member manuals: ***Many techniques used in sewing are appropriate for this project. There is NOT a 4-H way of construction. Youth need to be able to communicate why an application was used and to understand that other techniques may also be appropriate depending on the fabric, pattern, sewing equipment and intended use of the garment.*** Descriptions of techniques and judging guidance are presented as teaching/judging aides, but are not intended to supersede common sense.

Remember

1. **The person is more important than the product.** The goal is for youth to develop self-confidence through learning. Keep in mind the age, experience, and circumstances of the individual.
2. **The learning process is more important than the product.** Evaluation helps young people learn about fiber/fabric characteristics, construction techniques, color use, design elements, and resource management. Judging should not be a competition among peers but a way to reinforce learning and to suggest directions for improvement.
3. **Be flexible with new, different, or unusual techniques.** The results may not be what was expected, but experimentation is encouraged and a variety of methods may be used to successfully solve a problem. When in doubt about a method, ask yourself, "Why can't it be done this way?" Any method is acceptable if it does not detract from the appearance or durability of this item.
4. **Evaluate actual results (instead of what might have been).** For example, in judging a hand sewn article, evaluate the general effect and quality of work instead of stating that the article should have been made by machine.
5. **Provide specific comments (instead of vague observations).** For example, say, "This facing rolls to the right side of the neckline. Try under stitching and clip seam allowances." Do not say, "This facing is wrong."
6. **Distinguish between choice of technique and quality of workmanship.** For example, if a suitable hemming stitch was carelessly used, say, "This stitch was a good choice, but it shows too much on the right side. Try to pick up fewer yarns from the fabric with your needle."