



ELEVATING YOUR 4-H VISUAL ARTS PROJECTS

OVERALL PRESENTATION & CRAFTSMANSHIP

FINISH EVERY EDGE

Trim loose threads, smooth rough wood edges, clean glue residue, remove stray pencil marks, and paint canvas edges.

CHECK DURABILITY

Projects should survive transport and display without sagging, bending, or falling apart.

DISPLAY & MOUNTING

USE CLEAN MATS & FRAMES

A bent, dirty mat or scratched frame distracts from the artwork.

KEEP SURFACES CLEAN AND SMOOTH

Avoid smudges, fingerprints, dents, wrinkles, or crumpled edges unless intentionally part of the design.

USE QUALITY ADHESIVES

Weak glue, tape showing, or pieces falling off lowers craftsmanship scores

PREPARE ARTWORK FOR DISPLAY

2D art should be framed, matted, or otherwise ready to hang. If it's *not* meant to hang, include a photo showing how it will be displayed.

PROTECT DELICATE SURFACES

Watercolor, chalk, and similar media need a sleeve or glass covering.

ORIGINALITY & CREATIVE PROCESS

CREATE YOUR OWN DESIGN

IF INSPIRED BY SOMETHING, MAKE IT FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT

Combine ideas, change structure, or redesign elements to make it your own.

Avoid copying Pinterest projects, patterns, or copyrighted items.

BY MEDIUM

CLAY PROJECTS

Avoid cracks, fingerprints, or uneven surfaces unless intentional. Make sure pieces are fully dry and stable.

ATTACH YOUR INSPIRATION SOURCE

If you used a photo, sketch, etc., attach and be ready to explain how you adapted it.

PAPER PROJECTS

Keep paper flat, unwrinkled, and free of tears. For 3D paper art, ensure layers are secure and clearly dimensional.

WOOD, METAL, OR FIBER PROJECTS

Sand, finish, or seal surfaces as appropriate. Ensure stitching, weaving, or carving is consistent and intentional.

MIXED MEDIA & 3D PROJECTS

Balance materials and ensure visibility from multiple sides. 3D work should look finished from at least three angles. Keep size within required limits.



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