



# 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.

### 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

## DISPLAY & MOUNTING

### USE CLEAN MATS & FRAMES

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

### 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

Avoid copying Pinterest projects, patterns, or copyrighted items.

## IF INSPIRED BY SOMETHING, MAKE IT FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT

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

## ATTACH YOUR INSPIRATION SOURCE

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

# BY MEDIUM

## PAPER PROJECTS

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

## CLAY PROJECTS

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

## 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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