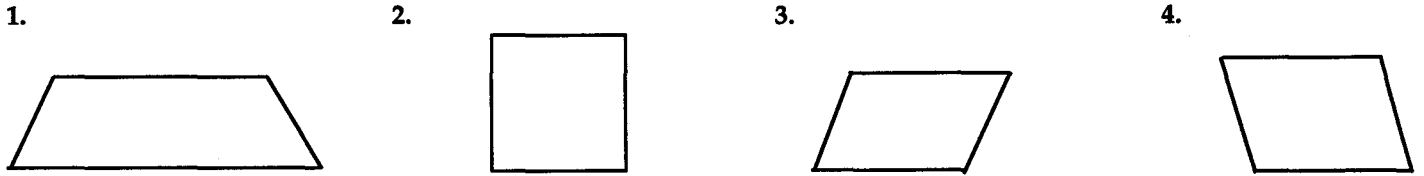


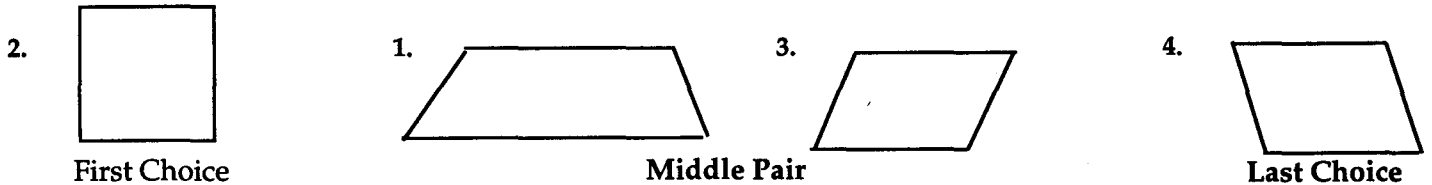
4-H JUDGING GUIDELINES

Judging can be fun! Judging can teach you about your project! Judging is not a mystical process, it is an excellent learning method. Most people relate it to livestock judging, but it can be used for any project and any group of similar items. If you want, you could judge fence posts! Judging is decision-making. You are placing four items in an order of the best to the least desirable according to a set of standards.

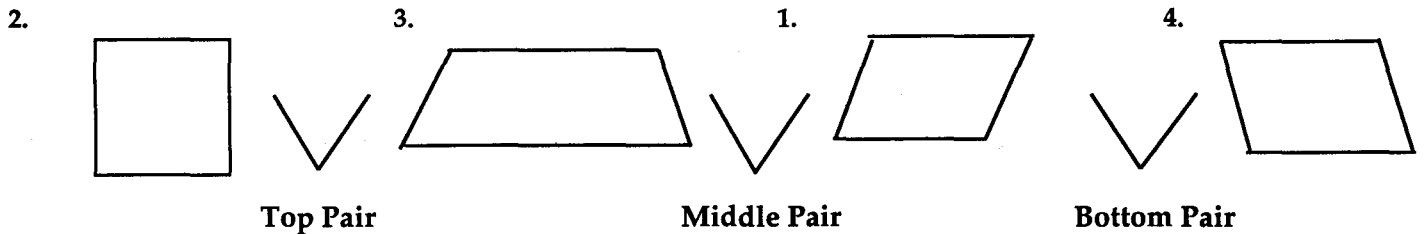
For example: you have four boxes. You need to stack them so they take the least amount of room and are stable in the stack. You need a box that is square. If you were going to buy 100 boxes, what would be your first choice, second choice, third choice, and last choice?



How do you decide? First, look at each box separately noting its shape and how it would stack. Second, step back and look at all the boxes as a group. Third, estimate which one would be your first choice then decide which one would be your last choice. If you have difficulty in deciding between two boxes for your first or last choice, put them in a pair to decide on later. Fourth, decide which of the middle pairs is better. Now you have made your initial judging.



Now look at the top pair and make your decision which one is first. You might switch, but first impressions are usually very good. Then, look at the middle pair again especially if you changed your first pair. Decide which box will be the second and third places. Then look at the other pair to see if you need to make a change. If not, you have made your final decision and the boxes will be placed 2 - 3 - 1 - 4 in your opinion.



Opinion is very important and you should realize that it is yours and you should defend it, and that other people might have different opinions and you should respect theirs. The official judge in a contest places the classes, like the group of four boxes, the way his or her expertise tells them to do that day. It is their opinion on that class that day. The scoring of a judging contest is based on these **official placings**. You can learn a great deal by comparing your placings with the official and listening to the **reasons** given during the critique after the contest by the official judges.

You need to know what is the best choice by knowing what the standards are for the best choice. Standards may be the squareness of a box, the available nutrition in different cereals, the highest producing animals, the best tasting and nutritious vegetables, or the strongest wood joint. After you learn about the items you are judging you can make a good rational decision. Try out this method by judging the below class.

Class - Circles

