4-H Photography - Judging Criteria
by Gary Fail

4-H member's Name_____ Age_____ Years in project ____

Following are the guidelines I use when judging a photograph. These guidelines are grouped into the three mains aspect of an image. They are, the basic physics or technical aspects of photography, traditionally accepted principles of art and the elements of human emotion. They are as follows:

1. TECHNICAL QUALITY:
   a. Is the photograph sharp and in proper focus especially in regards to the subject?
   b. Has the image been properly exposed?
   c. Was the print properly printed for subject appropriate color, contrast, and density?
   d. Is the mounting or presentation done properly?

2. ARTISTIC or CREATIVE VALUE:
   a. Is there an obvious center of interest that is easily identifiable?
   b. Is the image cropped /composed in a pleasing and well balanced manner that emphasizes the center of interest? Has the compositional Rule of 3rds been applied appropriately or not?
   c. Does the camera angle add interest to the theme of the image? Has the appropriate focal length been selected for the subject?
   d. Are leading lines or framing techniques used to add depth and direct viewer's attention to the subject?
   e. Are the visual elements of texture, shape, form, used to add interest and support to the image's theme?
   f. Do the colors or tones of the image have harmony and balance and direct viewer attention toward the center of interest?
   g. Does the image convey motion? Is it blurred or stopped? Is it headed in the appropriate direction as to strengthen the impact image?
   h. Is the style of lighting appropriate for the subject? Does it add interest or impact to the image?
   i. Has a crucial moment been captured?

3. PSYCHOLOGICAL or EMOTIONAL IMPACT:
   a. Has a crucial moment been captured?
   b. Is the subject matter interesting and impactful?
   c. Does the image tell a story about the subject?
   d. Does the image capture any emotion on the part of the subject?
   e. Does the image evoke a feeling or emotion in the viewer?
   f. Does the image have overall impact?

IMAGE NAME						
Technical Score						
Artistic Score						
Emotional Score						
TOTAL SCORE						

4=Excellent   3=Good   2= Satisfactory   1=Needs work

Purple 10-12   Blue 7-9   Red 4-6   White 1-3