

Genesee County
4H State Essay Rules and Scoring Criteria

(NOTE: this can also be used for the “My 4H Story” in the Horse Project Book!)

QUESTION for REFLECTIVE ESSAY:

What is something I learned this year?

What is a Reflective Essay?

Reflection Essays describe an event or experience, and then analyze the meaning of that experience and what can be or was learned from it.

Organizing Your Essay

Introduction: Either start with a vivid description of the place, your experience, or a summary of what you are reflecting about. End with your thesis idea. Sometimes you may want to put a question first and then the answer

Body: Each of the Reflective Questions you've answered can be a paragraph in the body of your essay. It is OK to only have one question or story line. Take your notes and expand them. Add more details and examples from your experience and your life story.

Conclusion: In the conclusion, you will want to explain and expand on your thesis idea. Tell how this experience taught you something new or how it helped you to understand something. Another way to conclude is to suggest where you might like to go from this point in thinking about your thesis idea.

The Proper Format for Essays

Your Name

Club Name

4H State Essay

Date

You **DO NOT** have to type your essay. It can be either typed or hand written. These guidelines should be followed as allowed by the method used.

RUBRIC

**** Note **** The essay can be written by hand or typed.

An entry cannot be marked down for being written.

Feature	2 point per row	1 points per row	.50 points per row	.025 – 0 points per row
Title, Name, Conditions and Formatting	Title and Name Club and date were there in proper place Exhibitors must write or type an essay at least a half page in length.	Title and Name were on the page in proper place. Less than ½ page in length, Times New Roman 12 point font (if typed), and double spaced.	Title and Name were visible, More than one thing wrong in formatting.	Parts were missing or incorrect. Many things wrong in formatting.
Quality of Writing / Organization	Written in an extraordinary style and voice. Very informative and well organized (intro, body, conclusion)	Written in an interesting style and voice. Somewhat informative and organized (intro, body, conclusion).	The essay had little style or voice. There was difficulty following the story.	No style or voice. No organization or structure to the essay,
Grammar / Spelling	No grammatical errors. No run on sentences. No spelling errors or wrong words used.	1-2 grammatical errors. 1-2 spelling errors.	3-4 grammatical errors. 3-4 spelling errors.	5 or more grammatical errors. 5 or more spelling errors

SCORING

6 maximum points possible (scored like an additional class for state points)

Scoring	Points
Title, Name Conditions and Formatting	
Quality of Writing / Organization	
Grammar / Spelling	
TOTAL	