



Ethics Awareness

Indiana 4-H Civic Engagement Activity

Apple Judging

Audience: Grades 3-12

Duration: 10-20 minutes

Overview

Youth will judge and rank apples of different sizes, shapes and colors, while explaining why they ranked them as they did. They will use decision-making, critical thinking and communication skills to do this. Youth will consider the subjective decisions that are made by a judge. Then they will turn the tables by putting themselves in the role of the apple owners being judged. They will discuss how the subjective decisions affected them, how they view their apples, whether they agree or disagree with the judge's subjective decisions, and how to accept those decisions while learning about what may be improved.

Objectives

- Develop skills such as decision-making, critical thinking, and communication.
- Identify life skills that are required throughout the judging experience.
- Demonstrate how judges make difficult, subjective decisions.

Materials

- Four apples (Use different shapes, sizes, and colors. We have found that whether or not an apple has a stem makes a difference, so make sure at least one apple does not have a stem.)
- Blank index cards or scrap paper for each youth to record how they judged the apples, which have been designated 1, 2, 3, and 4 (place an index card or scrap paper with the number in front of each apple).
- Pens or pencils

Instructions

Do not offer the youth any criteria. Allow them to judge to the best of each individual's ability. After everyone has placed the apples, ask some to share and explain why they placed them a certain way. This conversation will usually direct itself. Sometimes we'll suggest that an apple that is meant to look nice in a fruit bowl would not make a good "production" apple to be used for juice or applesauce. Sometimes your applesauce makers will bring that up.

Discussion Questions

- What life skills are used when judging apples? (Decision making, critical thinking, communication, etc.)
- As an exhibitor, who grew and presented the apples, what life skills are developed through the exhibition and judging experience?
- What improvements for the next judging can be learned from this activity?

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