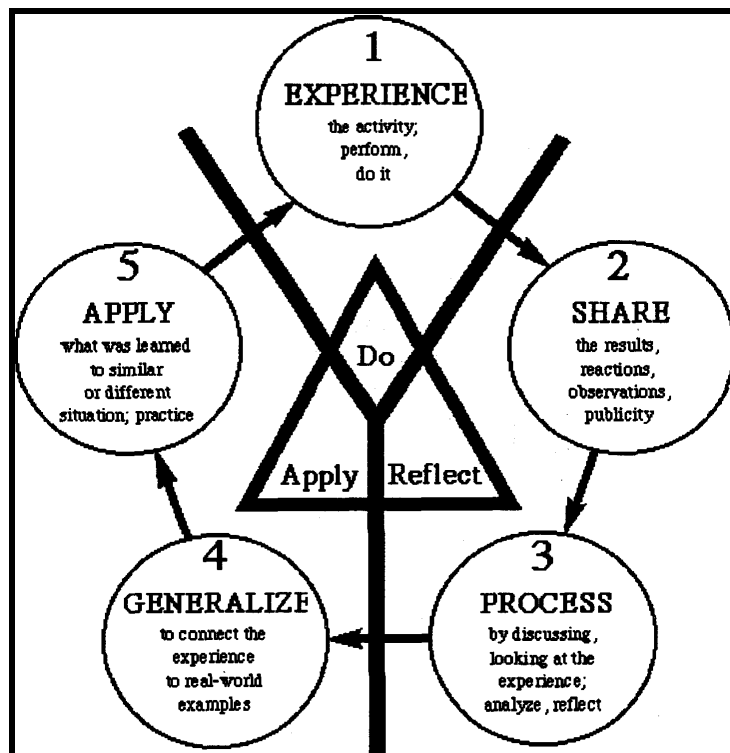


Leads For 4-H Leaders: Tips and Ideas To Use

Whether you are one of several adults serving as a project leader in your 4-H club or a parent serving on the 4-H club advisory committee, you are responsible for *overseeing the project learning* of 4-H members. Hands on activities are a great way to engage youth in learning. 4-H learning is more than simply doing an activity. After doing or *experiencing* an activity, 4-H youth are guided by their project leader to share, discuss, generalize and apply what they have learned. For those of us who have been around a few years, we call this the 4-H way to *Learn By Doing*.

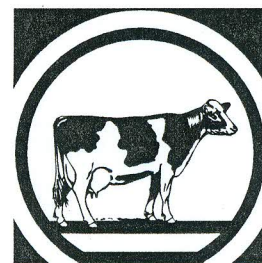
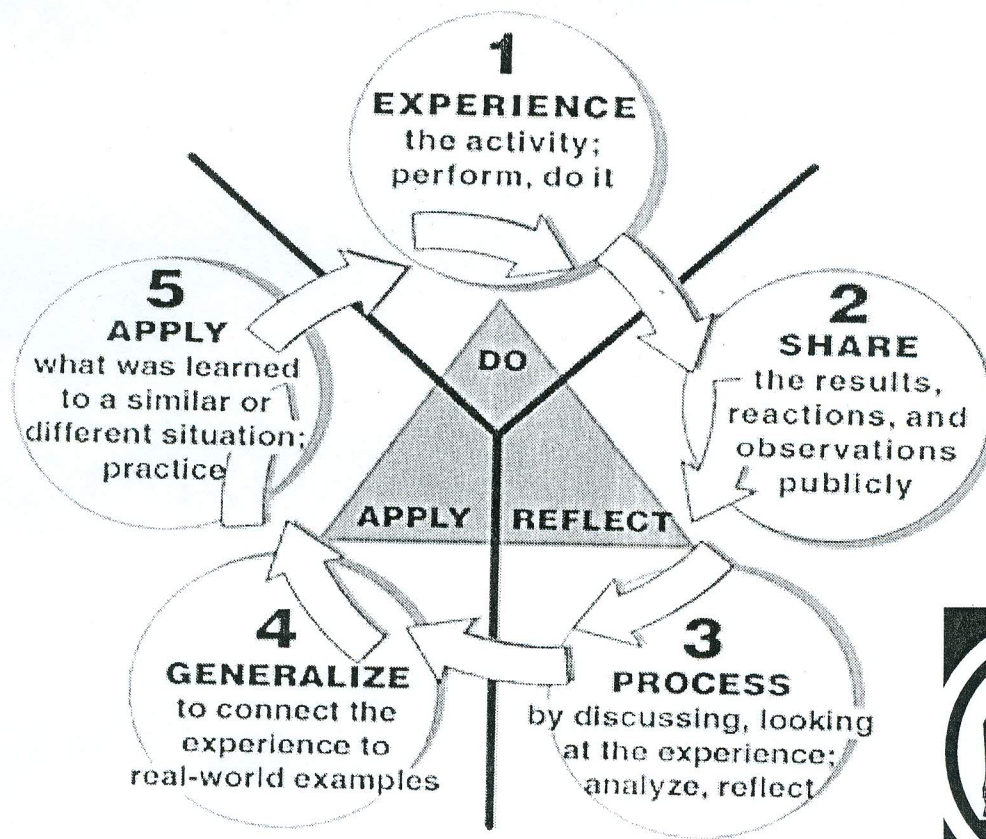


First, the project leader plans an experience that allows youth to become familiar with the content. The content could be how to tie knots or mix paints to create a new color. Youth explore and learn by doing. The project leader's job at this step is to simply help the 4-Her to focus on the task at hand. But 4-H learning is more than simply doing an activity. The important role of the 4-H project leader is to provide support and feedback for learning that is taking place, reviewing what was done to determine what went well, what could have been done differently and where to go from here to real life situations that creates the true Learn by Doing environment.

The **Do, Learn, Apply** 4-H style of learning really works! The Experiential Learning model has

been the heart of the 4-H program for over a century. Reprinted on the reverse side is a quick review of this 4-H way of learning that is from the 4-H Dairy Project Leader's Notebook for your reference. The model works whether you are a project leader for cows, cooking, cats, or citizenship. If you haven't been using the Experiential Learning Model as you plan 4-H learning opportunities, give it a try at your next project meeting. You will be teaching youth important life skills that make it a great investment of your time. Check out the county extension web site for more tips on this topic or visit with Extension Agents for more tips and ideas about teaching the 4-H way!

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING MODEL



Example questions used to complete the Experiential Learning Model

A. Share (*what happened*)

1. What did you do?
2. What happened? What did you see? Hear? Touch? Taste?
3. How did you feel?
4. How did it feel to...?
5. What was most difficult? Easiest?

B. Process (*what's important*)

1. What problems or issues seemed to occur over and over?
2. What similar experiences have you had?
3. What was most important?
4. Why was that significant?
5. Why do you think it happened?
6. What caused you to feel that way?

C. Generalize (*so what?*)

1. What did you learn about yourself through this activity?
2. What did you learn about a life skill?

3. How do the major themes or ideas relate to real life and not just the activity?
4. How did you go about making your decision?

D. Apply (*now what*)

1. How can you apply what you learned (life skill) to a new situation?
2. How will the issues raised by this activity be useful in the future?
3. How will you act differently in the future as a result of this activity?
4. How can you do it differently for different results?