



# 4-H Briefs

Fun ideas to help members and families explore 4-H projects

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Youth Development

## Exploring Topics

### FOCUS:

*Communication-* exchange of thoughts, information, or messages; sending and receiving information using writing.

*Reading-* considering ideas, thoughts, information, or messages that have been written.

### LEARNER OBJECTIVE:

Exploration of topics

### BACKGROUND:

Before you settle on a final topic you will want to do some preliminary exploration. Preliminary exploration will require that you ask other people questions about your topics. You can also begin exploring your topics using reference materials such as encyclopedias and credible sources found on the Internet.

Preliminary exploration will provide you with basic information about your topic. This information may pique your interest about a certain topic. This technique will often help you settle on a final topic.

### MATERIALS:

- pen or pencil
- paper
- computer

### PROCEDURE:

Explore your list of possible topics with your teacher, parents, 4-H Club leader, and one or two friends. You can also use the computer to conduct Internet searches on your topics. Record who you asked and what information you discovered.

You may either record the information on a piece of paper, or you may begin recording the information using a computer word processing program. You will be using the computer for the writing of your paper so now might be a good time to learn how to use a word processing program and to conduct Internet searches if you don't already know how.

### DISCOVERY:

- Did you discover information about any of the topics that interested you? Which topic and why did you find the information interesting?
- Who are some of the people you asked about information on your topic? Why did you choose to talk to them?
- If you conducted an Internet search, did you discover any problems? What were they?
- Did you find the Internet search to be helpful? Why or why not?

### PIECING IT TOGETHER:

- How can talking to others about subjects we are interested in help us to learn more about that subject?
- Is all the information you get from talking with someone or conducting an Internet search necessarily always the truth? Explain why or why not.
- How can exploring subjects we are interested in help us to learn?
- What do the topics we choose to learn about communicate about our interests, personality, and even lifestyles?

### TRY THIS:

The information you gathered in your preliminary exploration may have sparked your interest about a certain topic. You may have even discovered another angle to the topic that you would like to research and learn about. Think about the topics that you are most interested in after your preliminary exploration. You might even begin making a list of the topics and what you would like to learn about each. This list will help you to decide on the topic in which you are most interested.

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