

# Ethics: Sportsmanship

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## Goal (learning objective)

Youth will:

- Learn the importance of setting personal goals
- Explain and understand the difference between gamesmanship and sportsmanship
- Commit to exhibiting good sportsmanship at all times

## Supplies

- Handout 1, “Steps for writing goals”—appropriate number of copies for group
- Handout 2, “Gamesmanship or sportsmanship”—appropriate number of copies for group
- Pens or pencils
- Paper
- Chalkboard with chalk or easel pad with marker

## Pre-lesson preparation

- Read/review the following sections in *Quality Counts* (see resources list). Note: This is a 164 page document, specific pages are as follows:

Chapter 4, lesson 1 - Activities 1 and 3

Chapter 4, lesson 2 - Activities 1 and 2

## Lesson directions and outline

### Conducting the activity (DO)

1. Ask youth to think about their motivations for having a livestock project and to write their thoughts on paper.
2. Explain that there are usually two main reasons why people do extracurricular activities: to have fun and/or to feel worthy or successful.
3. Write these two categories on the easel pad or board and ask participants to share the motivations they have written down. Write their responses under one of the categories. Ask youth which category they think is appropriate? How do you define good character?
4. Discuss their various motivations with the participants. Be sure to ask why caring for and exhibiting livestock is much more than winning and losing. Explain the connection with and importance of personal growth, becoming mature and responsible, and increasing knowledge.
5. Ask participants how they define success. Write down responses on the easel pad or board:
6. Ask how they define failure. Write those responses down.
7. Read the following: **Success is the achievement of something desired, planned, or attempted.** Point out that the definition doesn't say anything about winning. It says that success is achieving something you desire, plan, or attempt.

8. Read the following: **Failure is not achieving what you desire, plan, or attempt.** Point out that this definition says nothing about losing. It simply says that failure is not achieving what you hoped to achieve. It's important for participants to understand that failure doesn't have anything to do with winning and losing but with whether or not you reach the goals that you set.
9. Have youth think about goals for their livestock projects and write them down on handout 1. Not all of their goals have to relate to their livestock project, but some should. The goals should be challenging yet realistic. They should be complete and focused, not quickly written down without thinking. A list of goals should be like a road map with a purpose.
10. Goals are personal. Ask if any volunteers would like to share their goals with the group. Remind participants that goals should not be about ribbons and trophies but about other kinds of achievements. Suggest that they post their goals in a place where they will see them, where they can track their progress in accomplishing them. If they reach the goals that they have set, they will have achieved success.
11. Ask participants, What is sportsmanship?  
Sportsmanship is exhibiting livestock with honor.
12. Ask participants, What is gamesmanship?  
Gamesmanship is all about winning for gain or glory
13. Read each statement in handout 2 and ask whether it represents gamesmanship (G) or sportsmanship (S)
  - Picking up a show stick that someone drops in the show ring S
  - Jabbing someone else's animal in the show ring G
  - Being dishonest about an animal's age when registering G
  - Teaching a younger exhibitor how to clip and fit a steer S

- Opening a gate for someone who has had a pig penned S
- Showing an animal in the wrong breed or division G
- Letting another exhibitor borrow a brush S
- Telling the judge that your animal weighs a different amount than what the card says G
- Taking leadership of the county showmanship training to help others S
- Blocking the judge's view of another animal in the class G
- Sharing your knowledge about selecting projects with others S
- Depriving your animal of the appropriate amount of feed and water to get its weight down G
- Helping a younger exhibitor carry a bucket of water S

#### What did we learn? (REFLECT)

- Ask: Why should we strive for sportsmanship, not gamesmanship?
- Ask: What can you do at the club or at the show to promote sportsmanship?

#### Why is that important? (APPLY)

- Ask: What character traits connect to sportsmanship?
- Ask: How does sportsmanship impact the industry? How?

#### Resources

Boleman, C., Chitek, K., Coufal, D., Keith, L., & Sterle, J. (2003). Quality counts. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Retrieved from [http://agriflifecd.tamu.edu/qualitycounts/files/2010/11/pdf\\_1733.pdf](http://agriflifecd.tamu.edu/qualitycounts/files/2010/11/pdf_1733.pdf)

University of Idaho Extension. (2006). Ethical expectations of 4-H participants. *4-H animal project record book* (page 2). Retrieved from <http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h/documents-records>

## **ETHICS: SPORTSMANSHIP - HANDOUT 1**

### **Steps for Writing Goals**

1. Make sure the goal is something you really want, not just something that sounds good.
2. Write a goal in the positive instead of the negative (for example, "I will. . .").
3. Write your goal in complete detail.
4. Make sure you set your goal high enough.
5. WRITE IT DOWN!

#### **Example:**

##### **My personal goals are:**

- To practice showing my steer four times a week
- To brush my steer twice a week
- To clean the pig pen three times a week
- To help my younger sister feed her calf
- To participate in at least three shows this year
- To improve my math grades
- To lead a showmanship clinic this year for my club

##### **My personal goals are:**

## ETHICS: SPORTSMANSHIP - HANDOUT 2

### Gamesmanship OR Sportsmanship?

*Read each statement below. Does it represent gamesmanship or sportsmanship?*

- Picking up a show stick that someone drops in the show ring
- Jabbing someone else's animal in the show ring
- Being dishonest about an animal's age when registering
- Teaching a younger exhibitor how to clip and fit a steer
- Opening a gate for someone who has had a pig penned
- Showing an animal in the wrong breed or division
- Letting another exhibitor borrow a brush
- Telling the judge that your animal weighs a different amount than what the card says
- Taking leadership of the county showmanship training to help others
- Blocking the judge's view of another animal in the class
- Sharing your knowledge about selecting projects with others
- Depriving your animal of the appropriate amount of feed and water to get its weight down
- Helping a younger exhibitor carry a bucket of water

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

**is about exhibiting livestock with honor**

**Sportsmanship = livestock exhibition is a contest governed by high standards of integrity and ethics.**

## **GAMESMANSHIP**

**is all about winning for gain and glory**

**Gamesmanship = livestock exhibition is a chance to win by doing whatever you can get away with.**