

Does My 4-H Story Really “Tell My Story”?

Does your 4-H story really capture what you have learned and done in 4-H? Or does it just give bare facts that don't truly represent the experience you are writing about? No doubt, you have developed important life skills, like teamwork and concern for others. So let your story tell that! Before you sign off on your 4-H story, ask yourself some questions: *Does my story just include the basic details (who, what, where, when, why)? Or have I included the life skills I learned through the experience? Refer to your Targeting Life Skills wheel to identify the life skills you have learned* (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/lifeskills/previewwheel.html>)

Look at the difference between the following 4-H stories. Each one is about the same experience, but the first just tells facts, the second tells what was learned. Which one really “tells the story”?

I went to sing at the nursing home in town with my club in December. We had a good time. I learned a lot. I want to go back. We sang a lot of new songs. The people sang along with us. I will be taking my singing lessons this week. Singing is fun. I am looking forward to going back to the nursing home.

*Every month, my club performs at the local nursing home. I have learned that it is important to be **organized** since I arrange all of the sing along sheets. This community service project has helped me appreciate older people more and **understand that each one has different needs and abilities**. Through our performances, our club has learned more about **cooperation**, because we come together to plan and rehearse. I now have more confidence in speaking in front of others; each time we present, I talk about our club and invite the senior citizens to participate. I am proud that our club is doing this community service project and I look forward to learning more about the seniors the next time we visit the nursing home.*

Which story, the first or second, best captures best what this 4-H'er learned? Why?

Some life skills have been highlighted in the second story. Can you identify any others?

Now practice writing your 4-H story.

First version – Just The Facts

Second Version – Life Skills Learned

Which story best captures what you learned? Why?

Through 4-H you “Make the Best Better”. Let your story celebrate the best in you!

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