



Pointers and Problems for 4-H Photography Fair Entry Classes

Landscape -

Fair book description: single image featuring an expanse of scenery (layout and features of land or water); could include sunsets, seascapes, day or night scenes”

Pointers:

- Display of scenery can be expansive or intimate. Make sure horizon is level.

Problems:

- Just because a photograph is in a landscape orientation, does not make the “Landscape” category a good choice.
- Rule of Thirds – Horizon line is often centered in photo

People -

Fair book description: single image featuring a person or people in formal or informal settings

Pointers:

- Must be subject of the photo, receiving approx. 50% or more of the photographic space.

Problems:

- Person is too small in proportion to the rest of the photo.
- Not interesting, background clutter, lighting
- Portion of subject is cut off by framing either during capture or after capture.

Animals -

Fair book description: single image featuring one or more animals

Pointers:

- Must be subject of the photo, receiving approx. 50% or more of the photographic space. Exceptions to this might include insect photos, where their environment might lend more to the balance of the photo.

Problems:

- Subject is too small in proportion to the rest of the photo.
- Not interesting, background clutter, lighting

Plants -

Fair book description: single image featuring plants, flowers, leaves, trees, etc

Pointers:

- Use a variety of angles to capture different perspectives of the plants.
- Do not allow environment of plants become the focus or a distraction.

Problems:

- Subject is too small in proportion to the rest of the photo.

Architectural -

Fair book description: single image featuring man-made structures such as buildings, bridges, etc. No sculptures or garden art.

Pointers:

- Use a variety of angles to capture different perspectives of the subject.
- This category is all about the lines of construction and perspective.

Problems:

- Just because an item is “man-made” does not make it a good fit for this category.

Other Interesting Subject -

Fair book description: single image featuring subjects of interest that do not fit in the other classes.

Pointers:

- Because it doesn't fit any other category, and it's a great photo. A unique shadow on a wall or other object, perhaps the curves or lines of a vehicle. Some fairs have a “found art” category and this might be a place for those subjects.

Problems:

- Not a “catch all” to get an additional entry.

Texture -

Fair book description: single image featuring the texture(s) of an object or subject, with emphasis on use of light, angle, and composition

Pointers:

- What you “feel” with your eyes. Close your eyes and “feel” the subject of the image, if you can't “feel” it, then it probably is not texture. Often there is also a pattern but not always.
- Shows surface detail.

Problems:

- Fluid items typically do not constitute texture, ripples on a pond or a series of waves are transient, you may feel the water but not the “texture”

Still Life -

Fair book description: single image featuring an arrangement of objects (incapable of movement on their own), which are arranged by the photographer, with emphasis on the use of lighting and composition.

Pointers:

- This is an intentionally “created” image exemplifying the impact of light and shadow on three dimensional objects.

Problems:

- Not found art, waiting for the light to fall through a crack in a canyon wall is not still life.

Action/Movement -

Fair book description: single image capturing a subject that is in motion

Pointers:

- Image should show a subject in motion against a background that is not. Subject should be sharp but not necessarily; taillights of a vehicle moving away from the photographer may be streaks of light against a sharp background.

Problems:

- Nothing in focus or everything in focus... where's the action or movement?

Panoramic -

Fair book description: single image of any subject, produced in panoramic format either in the camera or by cropping, where the panoramic ratio adds to the effect of the image.

Pointers:

- Many "landscapes" would be better as panoramas! Remove clutter or unnecessary space.
- Sometimes a boring picture can be enhanced by a panoramic cropping.
- Can be taken with panoramic setting on camera, cropped after printing, or an "assembled" or "stitched" image.

Problems:

- Horizons not level.

Special Preparation: Photos must be at least twice as long in one direction as they are in the other direction. Otherwise, general preparation rules apply (see Notes).

Series or Story -

Fair book description: Multiple print images (maximum 20) of any size or shape that depict a series (several images on one topic) or tell a story (showing several steps of an event or activity) mounted on one story board not to exceed 16" x 20". Captions are optional. Photo album pages or memory book pages are not allowed.

Pointers:

- Make sure photos have similar proportion or are intentionally dissimilar. Placement & balance in the presentation of series or story should complement or add to the entry.
- Make sure all photos and labels are properly attached and neatly done.
- Consider combining all photos and labels into one larger photo print. It might be easier to "finish" the final display.

Problems:

- Lighting can be tricky.
- Images from multiple print sources.

Special Preparation: May include photos of any size mounted on a single board not to exceed 16"x20". Otherwise, general preparation rules apply (see Notes).

Creative Process -

Fair book description: Single image that has been changed or altered through either film or digital processing or printing techniques; Includes computer enhancement beyond basic corrections of cropping, color and brightness correction, and red eye removal. **Both the original image and the final image must show on the front of the exhibit.** Must include an explanation of the creative techniques used.

Pointers:

- This is a category that offers huge success opportunities to students. There are typically lower numbers of exhibits entered.
- This category is a great opportunity for students to “play” with their photographs.
- Consider combining both photos into one larger photo print. It can be easier to display.

Problems:

- Altered image not the same as original.

Special Preparation: Original image may be 4”x6”, final image (no less than 5 inches on the shorter side of photo). Final exhibit, **showing both photos mounted on the front**, must not exceed 16”x 20”. Explanation on back either on exhibit entry card or attached to exhibit.

Special Effects -

Fair book description: single image showing a special effect **achieved with the camera during the capture of the image.** i.e.: camera angle, light, subject placement, filters, focus alterations, etc. Must include an explanation of the special effect techniques used.

Pointers:

- Rarely a “found” subject but rather an intentional manipulation or adaptation **during image capture.**

Problems:

- This is not digital manipulation or after capture work. That belongs in Creative Process!

Special Preparation: General preparation rules apply (see Notes).

Darkroom Skills -

Fair book description: single image produced by the member using a darkroom developing or printing techniques (not computer manipulation). Must include an explanation of techniques used.

Pointers:

- Does anybody but me still have or know what a “darkroom” is?

Problems:

- It happened...”an image made in a **dark room** with a flashlight”...nope, it’s not a darkroom skill.

Creative Uses -

Fair book description: one item showing the use or display of images in a creative manner. Images and the item must be the work of the member. Possibilities include: transfer to fabric, statuettes, 3-D display, note cards, page from photo album or memory book, etc

Pointers:

- Neatness really matters here because it really is about the “use”

Problems:

- This is not a category for items “ordered” from vendors, featuring your photo.

Special Preparation: Size determined by the use. No special preparation, however, item will not be displayed wrapped in plastic.

Scavenger Hunt -

Fair book description: select and mount the required number of images: any size photos; one image per subject or technique; all on one mount, not to exceed 16” x 20”. Images should demonstrate the chosen subjects or techniques from the list below. Label each image with the represented subject or technique. Select from these possibilities:

Subjects:	water	color	light	shadow	texture
	seasons	shapes	night	emotion	motion
Techniques:	depth of field	forced perspective	light sources		

Junior - select 4 different subjects or techniques

Intermediate - select 6 different subjects or techniques

Senior - select 8 different subjects or techniques

Club (two or more members) - select 8 or more different subjects or techniques

Pointers:

- Consider combining multiple photos into one larger photo print. Can be easier to display
- Make sure labels are neat & symmetrical.

Problems:

- Labels smeared or inadequately attached, poor penmanship.
- Same photos submitted elsewhere by the student.

Special Preparation: General preparation rules apply (see Notes).

Selfie (or Self Portrait) -

Fair book description: single image of the photographer made by the photographer. May include others in the photo. Photo should “memorialize” a time and or place for the photographer and an explanation MUST be included on the entry card.

Pointers:

- It still needs to be a GOOD photo, and have a “story” to go with it.

Problems:

- Blurry, poor choice of background, photo “bombers”

Presentation of Photography Exhibits

Fair book description:

To qualify for judging, a fully completed 4-H Photography Exhibit Explanation Card (241-01) must be attached.

Photos must be either mounted or matted with a rigid backing. Anything firm or stiff to protect the photos on the backside, *which does not show*, such as foam core or rigid cardboard, is required. Photos cannot come in only matted, the photos must have a rigid back for protection. The surface which shows from behind mounted only photos or around matted photos must be mat board. Poster board is not acceptable for mounting or matting.

Pointers:

- Mat board centers can often be obtained, for free, from frame shops. Members do not need to invest a lot of money to prepare their exhibit.
- Plan ahead, don't mount your photos the morning before you bring them in. Adhesives need time to work, so give them time to dry well.

Problems:

- Many exhibits that are brought to the fair for entry are not mounted properly and therefore cannot be judged or displayed.
- No explanation card!
- Sometimes glue residue, pencil marks used in mounting, or smudges are left which detract from the photo image itself.

Notes:

Disclaimer: Class list is not meant to be exhaustive of all possible categories of every photo taken. It is limited and occasionally a student will have a photography that does not fit in a given class category well.

Judging: The category that the photo is entered will determine what the judge is looking for. In other words, if the photo is entered in "People" and is a gorgeous picture of a sunset but a poor picture of a person, the photo will do poorly.

General Preparation Rules: (These guidelines apply to all categories listed above unless there is a note about "Special Preparation".) Shortest side of photo must be at least 5", final display size must be at least 8"x10" and no bigger than 16"x20". Must be mounted or matted with a rigid backing.