



# 4-H Briefs

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

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Youth Development

## Roadblocks

### FOCUS:

*Communication*- being able to communicate effectively by using voice patterns to share ideas; and exchange thoughts and information, between individuals. Sending and receiving information using speech, writing, and gestures.

### LEARNER OBJECTIVE:

Cooperating with others on a project, and developing communication and public speaking skills

### BACKGROUND:

Have you ever listened to someone talk who said “you know” or “OK” or “uh” often? These words are called roadblocks. Roadblocks, a form of paralanguage: the unneeded words, phrases, or sounds that we often use. These roadblocks can make communication difficult by stopping us from hearing the main idea or thought someone is trying to communicate. These roadblocks are easy to hear when someone else uses them. However, we do not hear them when we use them ourselves.

### MATERIALS:

-  Tape recorder
-  Paper
-  Pencils
-  Friends

### PROCEDURE:

Take a tape recorder and record a conversation with a friend. Then play the tape back and count how many roadblocks you and your friend used. Write down the roadblocks and the number of times each one was used.

Now record another conversation with each of you trying to leave out possible roadblocks. Listen to the tape and once again write down the roadblocks that are present.

### DISCOVERY:

1. What did you learn about how many roadblocks you use when talking?
2. During the second conversation, were you able to eliminate most of the roadblocks from the previous conversation?
3. Did you discover any new roadblocks after your second conversation?
4. How can you change or avoid using roadblocks?

### PIECING IT TOGETHER:

How might what you have learned assist you in school, your club, church, etc.?

### TRY THIS:

Listen to a newscast either on television or on the radio. See if you discover any roadblocks in the information being presented. Make a list of the roadblocks you discover, and discuss them with your friends.

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