



# 4-H Briefs

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

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Youth Development

## The Photo Essay

### FOCUS:

*Communication*- to communicate effectively by using voice patterns to share ideas.

### LEARNER OBJECTIVE:

To develop written and oral communication skills.

### BACKGROUND:

Writing is an important form of communication. A narrative is a story that includes important details, to decide which details are important, think about the following:

1. *The Audience*: who you are writing for or who will be reading it.
2. *Your Purpose*: why you are writing the story
3. *How much time* you have and want to spend writing the story.

### MATERIALS:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Markers
- Paper
- Poster board
- Pictures

### ACTIVITY:

Complete a photo essay using only pictures to illustrate a story. To help you prepare for the development of your essay, make an outline of who, what, when, where, and why. The elements of the outline will be important in developing and organizing your story idea. After preparing and placing ideas in order, create a poster of your photo essay, using the pictures or drawings you chose. Present an oral summary of your essay. Explain each picture in the oral presentation of your photo essay. Your story should also be clear without the use of words, the pictures themselves should tell the story.

### DISCOVERY:

1. What are some of the different ways to tell a story?
2. How did you tell a story using only pictures?
3. What are the three important elements you should consider when preparing a story?
4. Why is clear communication an important part of telling a story?
5. How well did the pictures tell the story? Could they tell the story even without words?
6. Was it easier to present the essay orally with the pictures than it might have been if you didn't have the pictures to help tell the story?

### PIECING IT TOGETHER:

- How has storytelling been important in your life?
- What can you do to improve your storytelling skills, both written and oral?
- How may you use your new skills in the future?

### TRY THIS:

Next time you have a story to share with someone, think about what pictures would help to illustrate the story idea. If you don't have actual photographs or drawings, create a mental picture and describe what you saw or experienced in detail so that the listener can have the same experience you did.

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Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, Oklahoma