Wisconsin 4-H recommends that you use the following criteria to judge arts and crafts entries at county fairs.

1. Background
   a. Why did this person make this piece? Judge every piece within the context of this information. The exhibitor and/or the cards attached to the item will provide some information.
   b. Artist’s interests and experience
   c. Age
   d. Interests
   e. Experience
   f. Physical/intellectual challenges
   g. Degree of supervision needed, evident or likely

2. Artist’s goals
   a. What is the artist trying to do? Examples include: Explore the material. Express something seen or felt. Construct a form. Use a specific technique. Tryout or explore a design concept. Practice or perfect a skill.
   b. The goals require levels of response. They may require a simple task, such as following specific directions. It may require a complex combination of thought, personal expression, and skill, such as figuring out the design and construction of a unique item in a new medium.

3. Artistic idea or creative process
   a. Is the idea imaginative, unique or original? Are the materials used in a unique manner? Has the idea been borrowed but used in a unique way? Are the sources of copies acknowledged? Is the use of copied material understandable within the overall original work?
   b. Does the total object make a single, unified statement? Do all parts add support to the whole?
   c. How complex are the ideas and problems exhibited?
   d. Is this piece exploratory? Has the artist experienced and solved a variety of problems in construction, design and expression?

4. Craftsmanship
   a. Does the piece show an awareness and conscious use of the elements and principles of design? For example:
      • Variety of line quality
      • Repetition and variation of shapes
      • Balance without monotony
      • Proportions appropriate to the whole
      • Space consciously and expressively used
      • Texture in variation and repetition
      • Range of value
      • Color harmony
   b. Is the object suitable for the purpose intended? (Is it utilitarian, such as a vase? Does it contain aesthetic appeal, such as a vase or painting? Is it durable, such as a leather belt or piñata?)
   c. Does the artist show technical knowledge and skill?
   d. Does the artist clearly indicate what was done with assistance?
   e. Does the object show the individual’s uniqueness or style?
   f. Is it presented appropriately (matting, framing, base, etc.)?

5. Other considerations
   a. What more could the artist have done or could s/he do in the future?
   b. How does this person’s piece compare with other work (their own, other’s work in the exhibit, or the stated criteria of the exhibit)?
   c. If an exhibitor submits several objects, look for variety in the types of problems solved, growth in complexity and ease in handling the media/techniques.