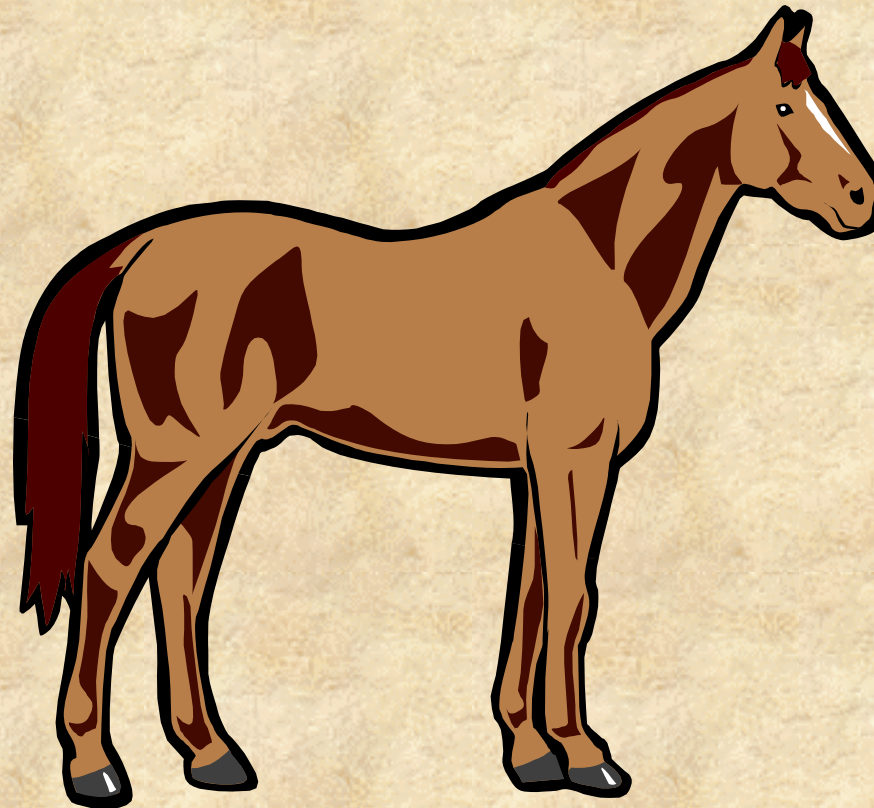


# 4-H Horse Judging Contest

## Horse Judging II: Basics of Horse Judging

PPA5-0001.00



Source: Basic Steps in Horse Judging (VOA5-0004.00); MSU-ES Horse Judging Activities I-V (Form 819, 820, 821, 822, 823); 4-H Horse Judging Manual (Pub 901)

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Presentation prepared by  
Kathy Nash  
AV Reference Room Manager/ Information & Graphics Technician  
MSU-ES Support Services Department

### Review Committee

Roy Higdon, Area Agent, Animal Science/Forages, MSUES

Tom McBeath, Mississippi Quarter Horse Association

Kathy Nash, Information & Graphics Technician, MSUES

Sandy Slocum, DeSoto County Director, MSUES

Amy Ware, Carroll County 4-H Agent, MSUES

Dwayne Wheeler, Special Project Coordinator, MSUES








Source: Basic Steps in Horse Judging (VOA5-0004.00); MSU-ES Horse Judging Activities I-V (Form 819, 820, 821, 822, 823); 4-H Horse Judging Manual (Pub 901)



# 4-H Horse Judging Contest

Horse judging is one of the most educational and popular activities of the 4-H horse project. Horse judging contests involve two actions. First, you must place each animal in a class, and second, you must be able to orally defend that placing.

## **Horse judging helps youth to:**







-  Develop communication skills
-  Make decisions based on facts and observations
-  Compete with a sportsmanlike attitude
-  Learn a skill essential for success in the horse industry
-  Develop self confidence

# Contests consist of:

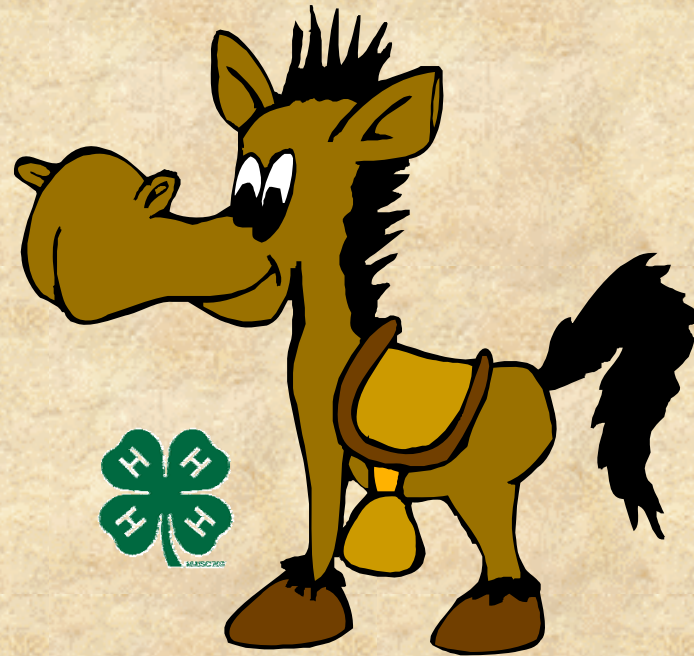
- 🐾 Judging halter classes (geldings or mares) and giving reasons
- 🐾 Judging performance classes and giving reasons. These performance classes will come from Western Pleasure, Reining, Western Riding, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunter Hack, Hunt Seat Equitation, Horsemanship or Showmanship.

The 4-H contest system uses four animals in each class. Your job as a judging participant is to place the animals first, second, third, and fourth. Generally, it is best to break a class down into pairs. Divide the class down into a top pair, middle pair, and a bottom pair. However, it is generally best to make the easiest placing first. This may be the top animal, the bottom, or any of the pairs.

# Suggestions for Beginners

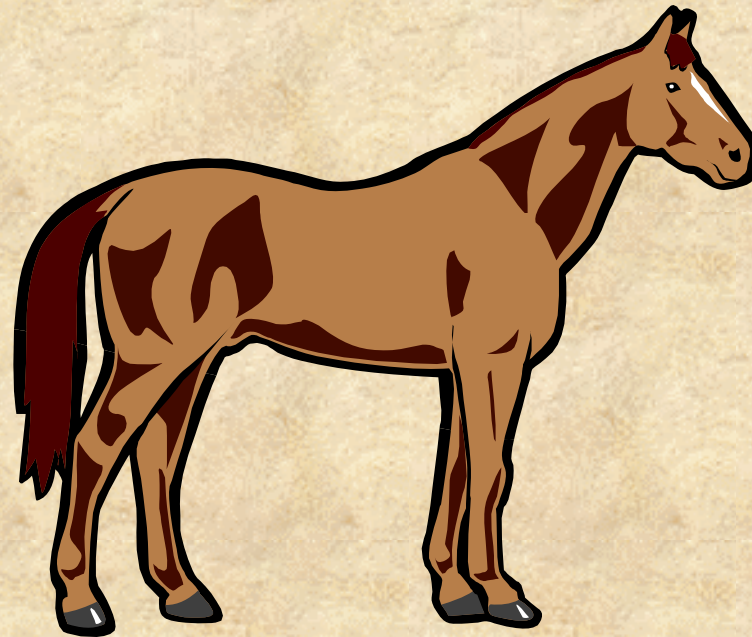
-  Learn the correct names for all the parts of a horse, their values, and their locations.
-  Learn the correct terms. Improper terms will weaken reasons.
-  Learn the correct organization and techniques used in presenting oral reasons.
-  Develop a mental picture of an ideal horse. Do this by recalling the desirable features of horses you have seen, or from pictures available from various associations.
-  Learn the correct procedures and patterns for performance classes.
-  Practice!!! Studying and knowing a lot about your subject will help you gain confidence.

Let's Begin!!!



# Horse Judging II: (Basics of Horse Judging)

PPA5-0001.00



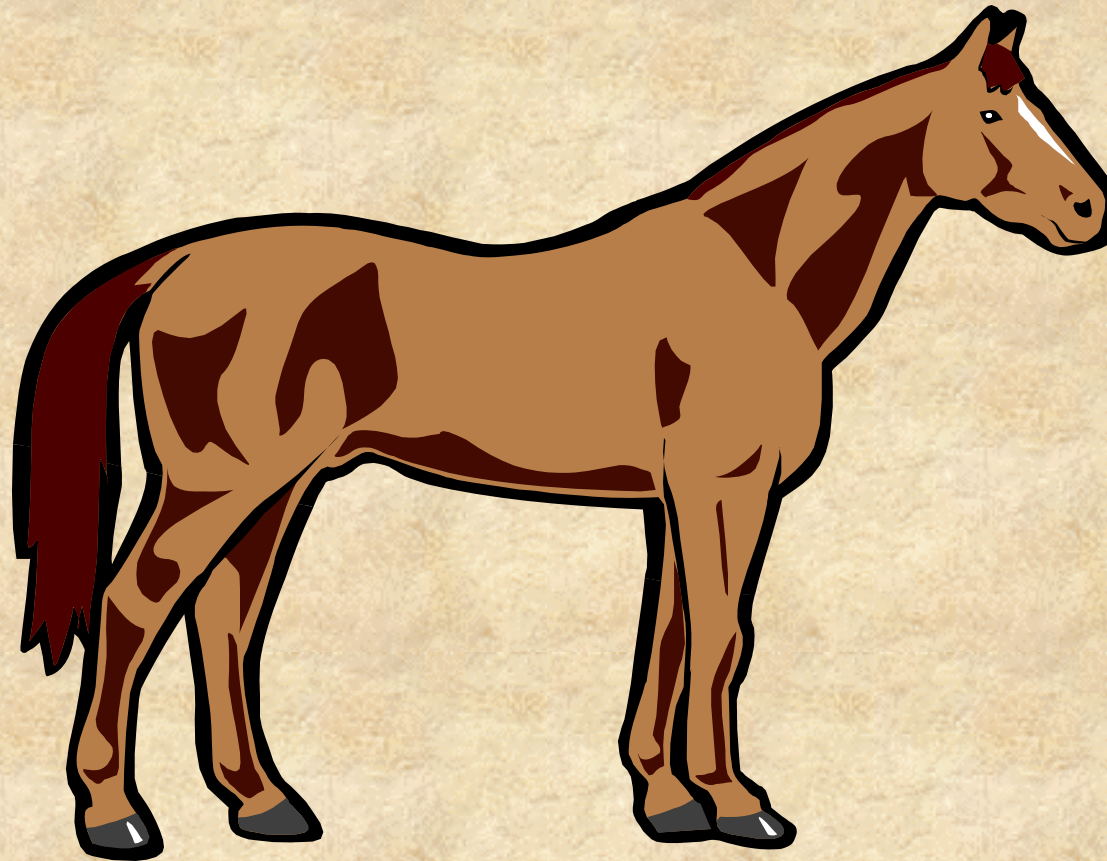
Material suitable for ages 8-10



Source: Basic Steps in Horse Judging (VOA5-0004.00); MSU-ES Horse Judging Activities I-V (Form 819, 820, 821, 822, 823); 4-H Horse Judging Manual (Pub 901)

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**This lesson is to help you understand the basics of judging!**



# There are 8 steps to judging

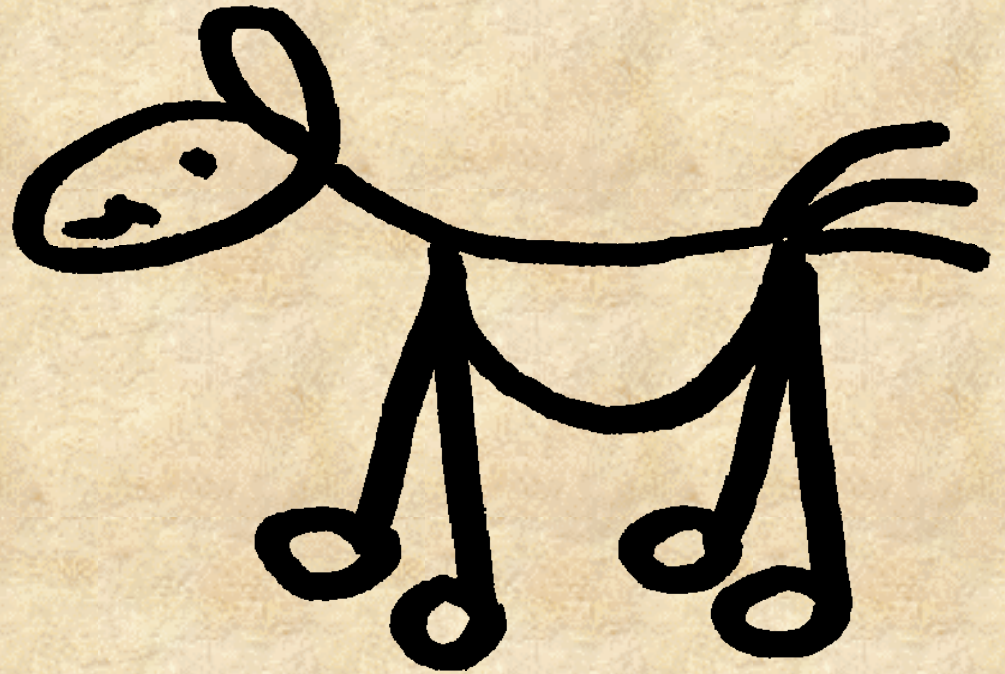
- 🐾 Know the "Ideal" of what you are judging
- 🐾 Compare the different individuals in the class to the "Ideal"
- 🐾 Closely compare the individuals in the class to each other
- 🐾 Place the class
- 🐾 Take brief notes on the class
- 🐾 Write complete reasons
- 🐾 Learn your reasons
- 🐾 Present your reasons

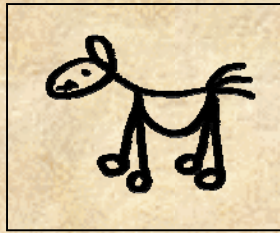
**If you follow these steps you can judge anything!**

# This is an “Ideal” Stick Horse

The characteristics of this “Ideal” Stick Horse are:

- It has a head, ear, eye, mouth, neck, body, tail, 4 legs and 4 feet
- The body is level
- The legs are all the same length

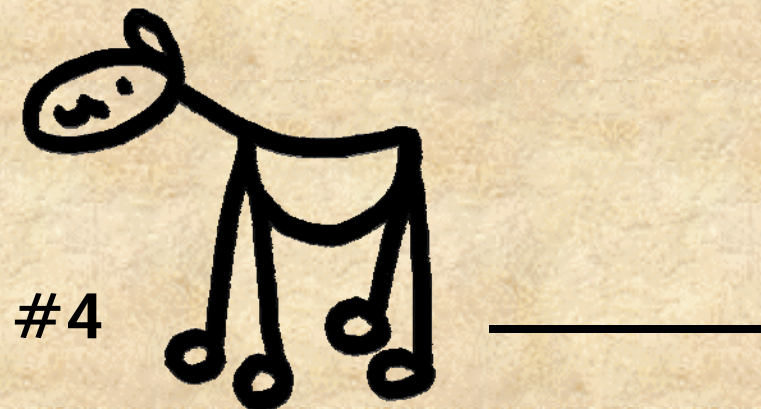
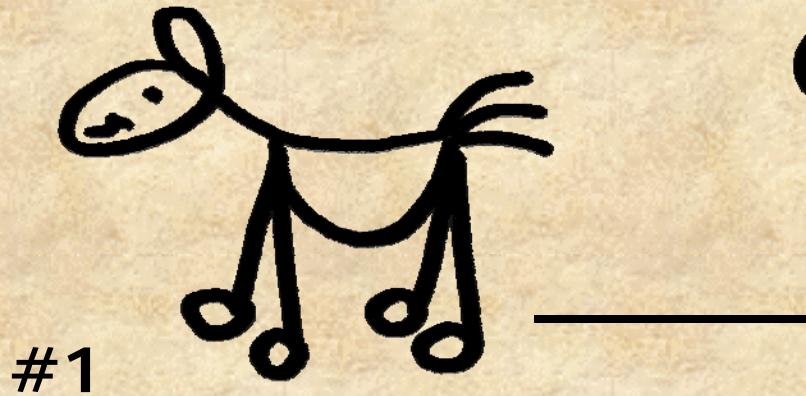




# This is a a group of 4 stick horses



After carefully, looking at these and comparing them to the "Ideal Stick Horse", place them in the order that you think they should be (with the best being 1<sup>st</sup> and the least being 4<sup>th</sup>)



To compare them individually go to the next page

Compare the "Ideal" Stick Horse against #1.  
Remember the characteristics of the  
"Ideal" Stick Horse.



The characteristics of this "Ideal" Stick Horse are:

- It has a head, ear, eye, mouth, neck, body, tail, 4 legs and 4 feet
- The body is level
- The legs are all the same length

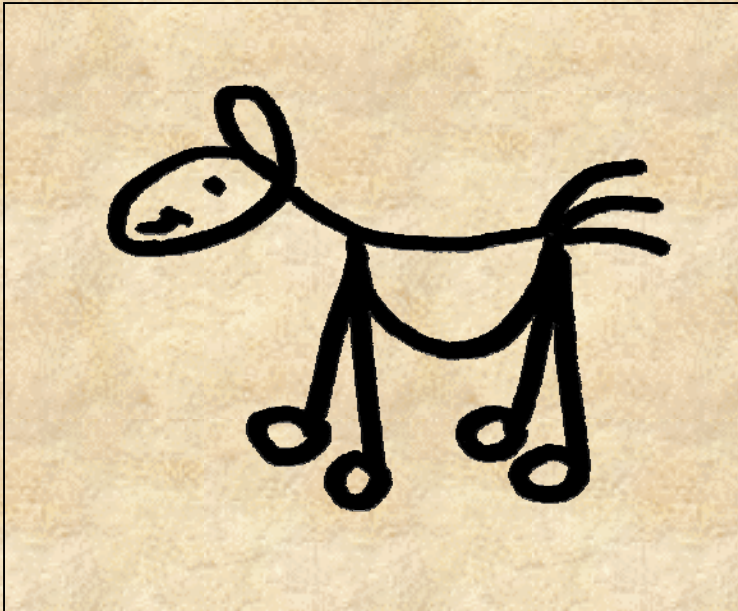


The characteristics of #1 compared to the "Ideal" are:

- It has a head, ear, eye, mouth, neck, body, tail, 4 legs and 4 feet
- The body is level
- The legs are all the same length

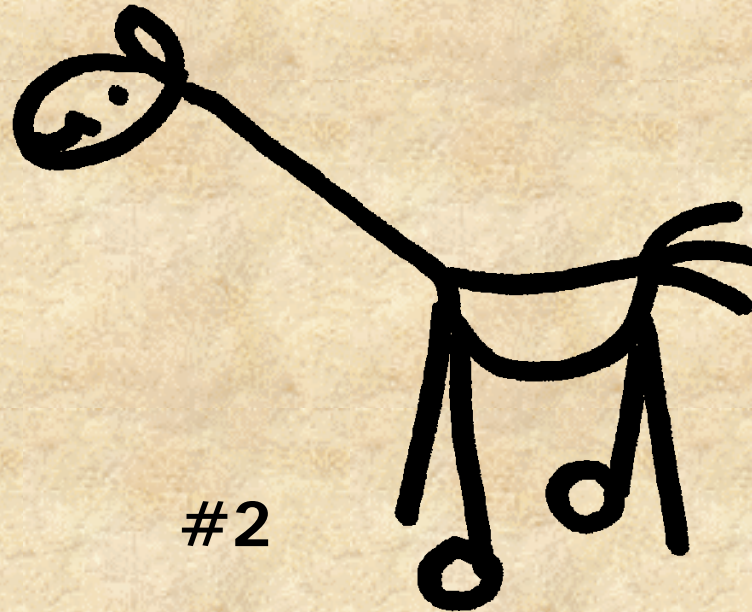
To compare them individually go to the next page

Compare the "Ideal" Stick Horse against #2.  
Remember the characteristics of the  
"Ideal" Stick Horse.



The characteristics of this "Ideal" Stick Horse are:

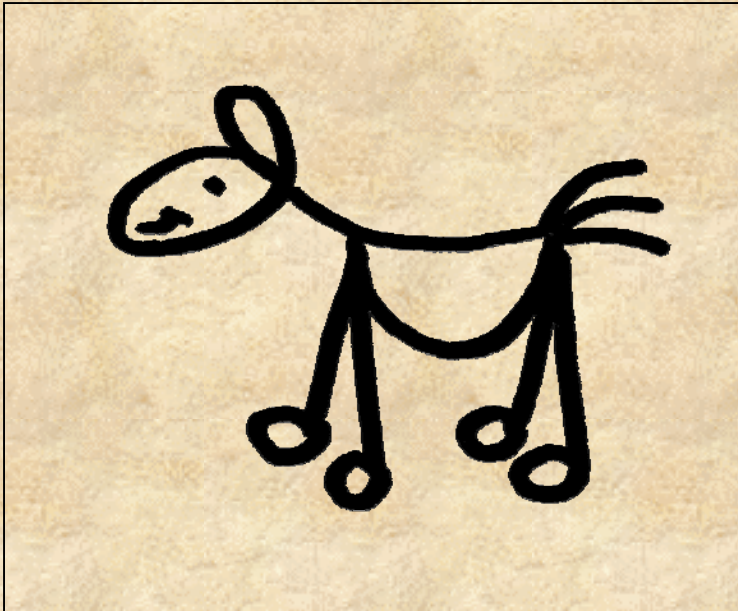
- It has a head, ear, eye, mouth, neck, body, tail, 4 legs and 4 feet
- The body is level
- The legs are all the same length



The characteristics of #2 compared to the "Ideal" are:

- It has a head, ear, eye, mouth, overly long neck, body, tail, 4 legs but only 2 feet.
  - The body is level
  - The legs are all the same length
- To compare them individually go to the next page

Compare the "Ideal" Stick Horse against #3.  
Remember the characteristics of the  
"Ideal" Stick Horse.



The characteristics of this "Ideal" Stick Horse are:

- It has a head, ear, eye, mouth, neck, body, tail, 4 legs and 4 feet
- The body is level
- The legs are all the same length

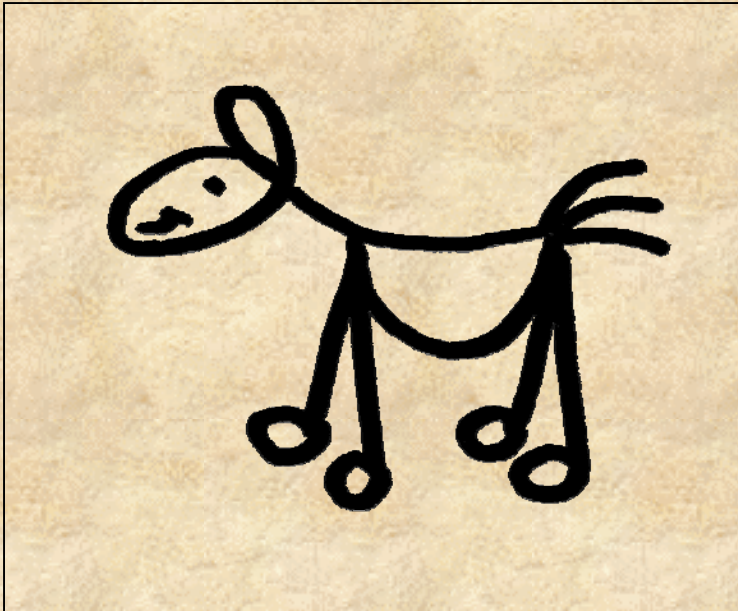


The characteristics of #3 compared to the "Ideal" are:

- It has a head, ear, eye, mouth, neck, body, tail, 4 legs and 4 feet
- The body is not level
- The legs are all the same length

To compare them individually go to the next page

Compare the "Ideal" Stick Horse against #4.  
Remember the characteristics of the  
"Ideal" Stick Horse.



The characteristics of this "Ideal" Stick Horse are:

- It has a head, ear, eye, mouth, neck, body, tail, 4 legs and 4 feet
- The body is level
- The legs are all the same length



The characteristics of #4 compared to the "Ideal" are:

- It has a head, ear, eye, mouth, neck, body, no tail, 4 legs and 4 feet
- The body is level
- The legs are all the same length



How did you  
place this class?

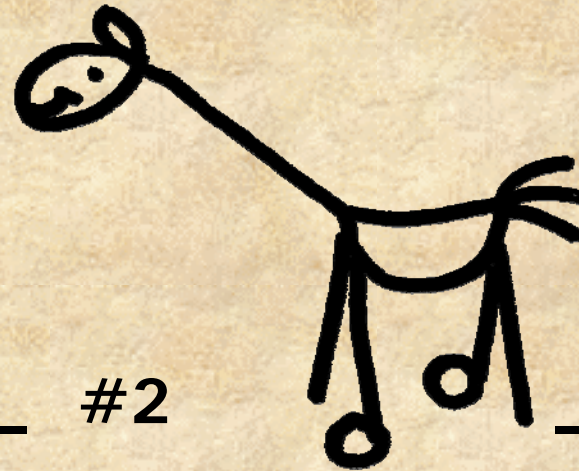


#1



\_\_\_\_\_

#2



\_\_\_\_\_

#3



\_\_\_\_\_

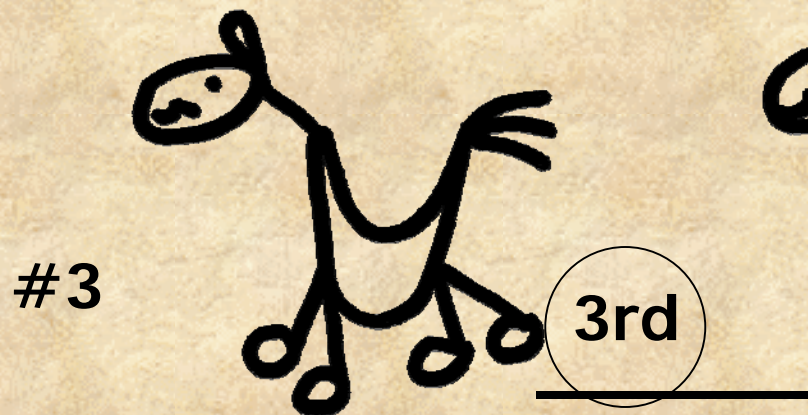
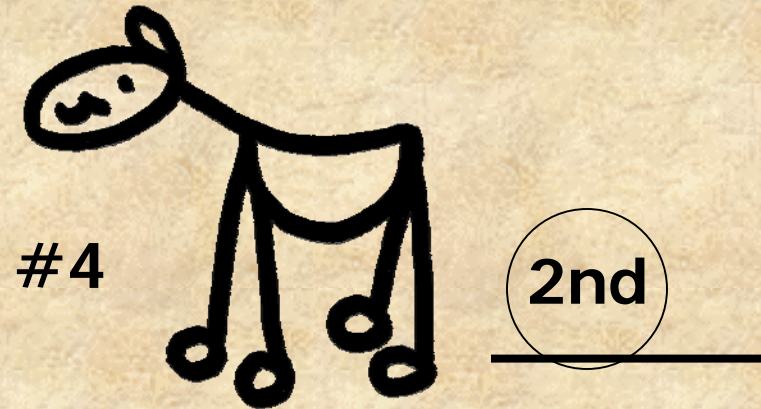
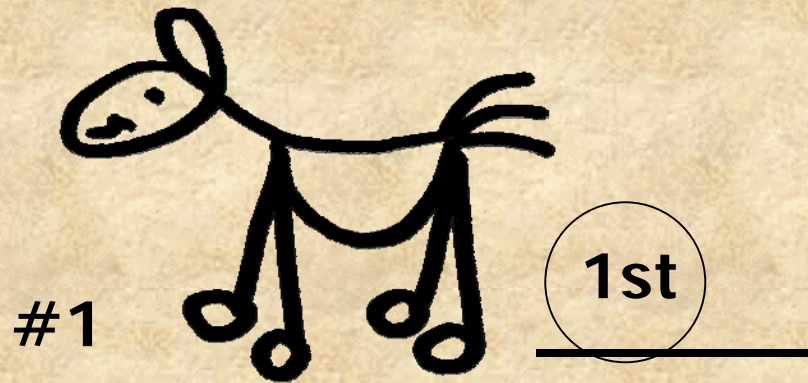
#4



\_\_\_\_\_



These are the correct placings!  
**Ya'll did GREAT!!!**



# We have completed 4 of the 8 steps to judging

- ☪ **Know the “Ideal” of what you are judging**
- ☪ **Compare the different individuals in the class to the “Ideal”**
- ☪ **Closely compare the individuals in the class to each other**
- ☪ **Place the class**
- ☪ Take brief notes on the class
- ☪ Write complete reasons
- ☪ Learn your reasons
- ☪ Present your reasons



We can now move on to Part III: Working on our notes with organized reasons by writing down our “Top Pair”, “Middle Pair” and “Bottom Pair”.

# Ya'll Did Great!!!



## See ya'll for Part III, when we study "Notes and Reasons"!



Source: Basic Steps in Horse Judging (VOA5-0004.00); MSU-ES Horse Judging Activities I-V (Form 819, 820, 821, 822, 823); 4-H Horse Judging Manual (Pub 901)

