

Senior Reasons Guide

There are many ways to give reasons. If you have never given them before, here is one form that can be used. Please check out the Horse Smarts book or your leader for further directions on how to give oral reasons.

SUGGESTED TRAINING FORM FOR ORGANIZING ORAL REASONS

I place this class of _____ , _____ ,
(name of class)
_____ , _____ , and _____ .

I place _____ over _____ because:
Compare
Grant
Above

I place _____ over _____ because:
Compare
Grant

I place _____ last because: (Statements of fact and comparison
to the other three items.)

For these reasons I place this class of _____ , _____ ,
(name of class)
_____ , _____ , and _____ .

Example set of reasons from the Connecticut 4-H Horse Judging Guide:

“Sir, I placed this class of aged geldings 1-2-3-4, finding in 1 an individual that showed the highest, most favorable combination of balance, muscling, and structural correctness. In the top pair, I placed 1 over 2, because 1 was longer in the neck, longer and more sloping in the shoulder and broader across the chest, indicative of a greater volume of muscling in the pectoral area. One stood on shorter cannon bones with the cannon dropping straighter down from a flatter knee. Also, 1 was deeper in the heart, shorter and stronger over the back and loin, and longer in the croup. When viewed from the rear, 1 was wider and deeper tying in the stifle, and showed much more separation in both the inside and outside gaskin. Further, 1 also stood straighter through the hocks. I grant that 2 was of higher quality in the face and stood on more sloping pasterns, and therefore in the middle pair, I placed 2 over 3. Two was cleaner and sharper in the face, broader and more finely chiseled in the chest, longer and more angular in the shoulder and straighter at the toe. Also, 2 had greater circumference in the heart girth and was shorter and stronger in the back and loin. In the hindquarters, 2 was more powerfully muscled throughout, being longer in the hip and more bulging in the stifle. I admit that 3 was leaner in the neck and traveled with more snap and flexion in the knees and hocks, and moving to the bottom pair I placed 3 over 4. Three was more proportional throughout, and was shorter in the face, broader across the chest, more powerfully muscled in the forearm and straighter down the front leg, particularly at the knee. Three showed more depth to the heart girth, was much shorter in the back and loin in relation to a longer underline and stood lower on the knees and hocks. Also, 3 stood on a straighter, more correct hindleg and traveled truer and sharper than 4. I realize that 4 was longer in the neck, but I left 4 on the bottom of this class, because 4 was plain in the head, offset in the knee, steep in the shoulder, much too long in the back and poorly balanced throughout. For these reasons I placed this class of aged geldings 1-2-3-4.”

Class 2 – Geldings - Write your reasons here and then practice giving them to someone.

Class 3 – Hunter Under Saddle – Write your reasons here and then practice giving them to someone.

Class 4 – Western Horsemanship - Write your reasons here and then practice giving them to someone.