

Evaluating Reasons

1. **Organization:** Reasons should be organized and systematic. The basic approach is the comparison of animals in three pairs: The top pair, middle pair, and bottom pair. The focus should be placed on why one animal is placed over another animal within each pair, and should be given in a comparative fashion.
2. **Accuracy:** Telling the truth is the foundation for a set of reasons. Reasons should reflect the actual differences in the pair and should consist primarily of those points of comparison that were significant. In other words, stay on the important issues within the pair. Talking about insignificant or irrelevant points is discouraged.
3. **Terminology:** When comparing one horse to another, terminology should always be comparative and relate to the two horses in the pair. Descriptive terminology may be used to a limited extent in the opening statements and to describe faults on an individual.
4. **Presentation:** Oral reasons should be presented in a poised, confident, and convincing manner, but they should never convey arrogance. Loud, boisterous delivery, as well as shy, timid unconvincing presentations are discouraged. Rather, reasons should be presented in a confident, yet relaxed, pleasing, and conversational manner. The use of correct grammar is also a must.

While good presentation is important, it must be combined with organization, accuracy, relevancy, and proper terminology for a good score. Reasons should be given in two minutes or less.

Scoring Reasons

- 0-25** No effort, appears lost or unable to communicate.
- 25-35** Presentation follows acceptable organizational scheme, minimal to moderate evidence of knowledge of class procedures and judging criteria, large degree of irrelevant and inaccurate reasons and terms, presentation ability minimal to moderate.
- 35-40** Presentation follows acceptable organizational scheme, moderate to commanding evidence of knowledge of class procedures and judging criteria, minimal to moderate degree of relevancy, accuracy and variation in terminology, presentation ability moderate to commanding.
- 40-45** Presentation follows acceptable organizational scheme, commanding evidence of knowledge of class procedures and judging criteria, moderate to commanding degree of relevancy, accuracy, and variation in terminology, presentation ability commanding.
- 45-50** Presentation follows acceptable organizational scheme, commanding evidence of knowledge of class procedures and judging criteria, commanding degree of relevancy, accuracy, and variation in terminology, presentation ability commanding.

Use of Notes: Use of notes will result in a minimum penalty of -10 points, up to -30 points, depending upon the extensiveness of notes used.