Name	9							



Activity 5.4.4 Priority Decisions

Purpose

If you were given a set of toy cars and asked to pick the best one, which one would you select? You may choose the blue one because blue is your favorite color or the one with a triangle sticker because it is closest to you. You could select a car based on other criteria or priorities that are important to you. Throughout life, you face decisions, and you will prioritize your decision-making using a criterion-based selection method.

For example, if you have the same set of toy cars with the instructions that the shape of the sticker on the car is the most important priority and the color of the car is second, the results of how you would prioritize a set of toy cars may be as follows:

- The best sticker shape is a square followed by a circle, triangle, and octagon.
- The highest-ranking color is blue, then red, white, and green.

Criteria are guidelines for selecting the "best" toy car.

If you have watched or participated in a livestock, dog, or horse show, you may have wondered what judges use to make their decisions. Animals are sorted based on their conformation or appearance. The judge or panel of judges begin by evaluating the animals. Then they make their selection based on a predetermined set of priorities. Just as you can select the best toy car using criteria, judges select the best animal using industry-based criteria. While criterion-based selection is not entirely objective, it does provide a consistent means of evaluating and selecting animals.

In Lesson 1.2 Preparing for Your Future, you explored several Career Development Events. Several of those included placing classes of objects. Livestock Judging is a Career Development Event, were students use the same skill as livestock producers use. How can you develop a set of criteria to judge commonplace objects?

Materials

Per group of four students:

(4) Writing pens, assorted

Per student:

- Pencil
- Agriscience Notebook
- Some Pig PowerPoint[®]

Procedure

In this activity, you will learn to select objects based on a defined set of criteria. Working on your own, evaluate market hogs and practice by placing a practice class of hogs.

Part One - Making Criterion-Based Decisions Using Writing Utensils

- 1. Your teacher will assign you to a group of four students.
- 2. Working individually, think about your favorite writing pen and answer *Writing Pen Questions* on *Activity* 5.4.4 Student Observations
- 3. In your group, compare your preferred pen traits and determine a pen's five most important characteristics.
- 4. List the five traits in order of the most important to the least important in Table 1.

- 5. Obtain four different writing pens from your teacher.
- 6. Select the best pen utilizing the group's criterion.
 - Continue placing the other three pens from best to worst. Record the placings in Table 2.
- 7. Answer Part One Analysis Questions.

Part Two – Using Priorities to Classify in Livestock Judging

- 1. Your teacher will present the PowerPoint® Some Pig.
 - Record notes on the *Indicators* and *Evaluation View(s)* of each of the four criteria for evaluating market hogs in Table 3.
- 2. Study the market hog class your teacher presents.
- 3. Rank each hog on muscling from best to worst. Record the ranking in Table 4.
 - For example, if the hog with the best *Muscling* is Hog #3, write a 3 in the 1st Place column.
- 4. Rank the hogs on the remaining criteria listed in Table 4.
- 5. Determine your overall ranking for each hog in the placing class.
- 6. Compare your placings with your group and answer Part Two Analysis Questions.

Conclusion

JIIC	lusion
1.	How does having a list of priorities make the decision-making process easier?
2.	Why are structure, muscle, finish, and skeletal size important when selecting market hogs?
3.	Why might priorities differ among people?

Activity 5.4.4 Student Observations

Writing Pen Criteria Questions

Q1 What are the traits or characteristics of your favorite pen?

Q2 What other characteristics do people find desirable in a pen?

Table	1.	Writing	Pen	Crite	ria
IUNIC		* * I I CII I G			

1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Table 2. Class of Pens Placings

5.

1 st Place:	2 nd Place:	3 rd Place:	4 th Place:	

Part One Analysis Questions

Q3 Why is the first-place pen the best?

Q4 How did having the criteria defined help you determine the placings?

Table 3. Market Hog Varieties

	Selection Priorities						
	Muscling	Frame Size	Finish	Structural Soundness			
Indicators							
Evaluation View(s)							

Table 4. Placings

Priority	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	4 th Place
Muscling				
Frame Size				
Finish				
Structure				
Overall Placing				

Part Two Analysis Questions

Q5 What differences are there between the groups' decisions?

Q6 Did any pig have the same ranking (first place, second place) for all priorities?