

THE GREAT SUCCESS STORY!

What makes a great success story? As the saying goes, if anything's worth doing, it's worth doing well! This sheet will give you advice on how to improve your writing style. It will also provide you with tips on how to make your success stories more interesting. While we understand that writing about vegetables is not one of life's most exciting tasks, we feel that these easy steps, if followed, will help you write a *great* success story that your audience will enjoy reading.

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU WRITE YOUR SUCCESS STORY:

* Who are the main characters of your story?

If you are writing about children, then pick out a few unique cases in which certain children indicated they had learned from the program. Tell the story of these specific children.

* Who presented the program?

Don't forget to give credit where credit is due! This includes the person who gave the program as well as the Extension unit with which that person is affiliated. Also, use this opportunity to mention other people and agencies who may have helped in an important way.

* What was learned?

If the main character(s) indicated they learned something from the program, what was it? How do they plan to use their new knowledge?

* How was the program conducted?

It is not enough to say that you gave a program on the food pyramid. Be specific about the activities you did with your audience during the program. What was unique about the program that caught people's interest?

* When did the program occur?

Was your program at night? Was your program in the Spring?

* Where was the program held?

Was your program given at the local YMCA? Also, remember to include the name of the county in which the program was held.

* How many people attended the program?

If 100 people attended your program, say so. If 101 attended, then say so.

* What was said?

Stories are more interesting if you can use quotes. Not only should you

quote the main character(s) of your story, but also include the comments of others who attended the program. **Remember:** Quotes should be as exact as possible. If you can't write down all that was said the first time, it's okay to ask people to repeat themselves.

SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER AS YOU WRITE YOUR SUCCESS STORY:

* Use examples!

Too much is better than not enough! Don't just tell us the seniors were interested in your program; tell us how! Did they laugh? Did they ask a question which showed they were interested? What was the question?

* Use simple language!

When you write, stick to language that everyone understands. A junior high student should be able to read and understand your story.

* Use details!

Don't ever assume your reader knows what you are talking about! For example, don't just tell us that a new recipe tasted wonderful; tell us what made that recipe wonderful. Was it a special spice?

SOME THINGS TO DO AFTER YOU WRITE YOUR STORY:

* Proofread!

Check your work for typing errors. Did you use the correct form of "its/it's" and "your/you're". Are sentences complete?

* Have someone else proofread your story!

Do what the professionals do! Ask a co-worker to look over your story. Sometimes a second person can catch the little things you might miss.

* Read your story aloud!

If your story sounds strange when you read it aloud, then it will sound strange to your reader.

* Include your name, county, name of program, and telephone number!

We may have questions about your story. Be sure to include the above information so the editors can contact you as needed.

GOOD LUCK!
AND MAY ALL YOUR SUCCESS STORIES BE
GREAT SUCCESS STORIES!!!!