

Experiential and Inquiry Learning

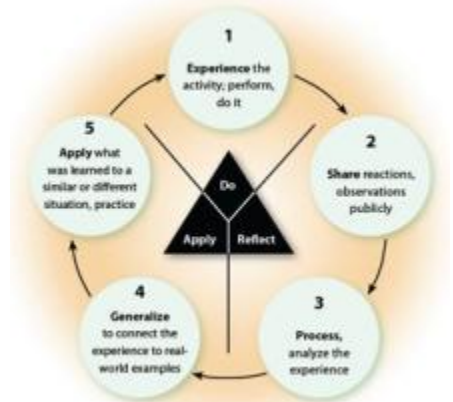
Experiential Learning

Experiential learning (EL) is based on the idea that experience matters in the learning process. Through a concrete learning **experience**, youth are encouraged to think, explore, question, and make decisions. EL is more than just having the learner be engaged in an experience, however. To ensure that learning does take place, two other components are required – a **period of reflection** where the learner shares and processes the experience, and the **application** of new learning in authentic situations

4-H promotes EL through projects and programs that:

- are direct and hands-on;
- invite discussion through open-ended questioning;
- involve active reflection; and
- make connections between the activity and the real-world.

The experiential learning model contains five steps – Experience, Share, Process, Generalize, and Apply – but can also be summarized in three main stages: Do, Reflect and Apply.



Inquiry Learning – Discovery!

In inquiry-based learning, youth build understanding through active exploration and questioning. The key to inquiry is that youth seek answers to questions rather than being given answers, which requires those who lead activities to facilitate the learning process and not simply disseminate knowledge.

Inquiry-oriented instruction engages youth in the investigative nature of science.

This will include:

- active questioning and investigating;
- acquiring new knowledge; and
- observing and manipulating (mentally or physically) objects, phenomena, and/or nature.

For more information, please visit <http://www.experientiallearning.ucdavis.edu/>

