

Experiential Teaching and Learning



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The 4-H Way of Educating Youth

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Adapted from National 4-H Curriculum Handbook, 1992

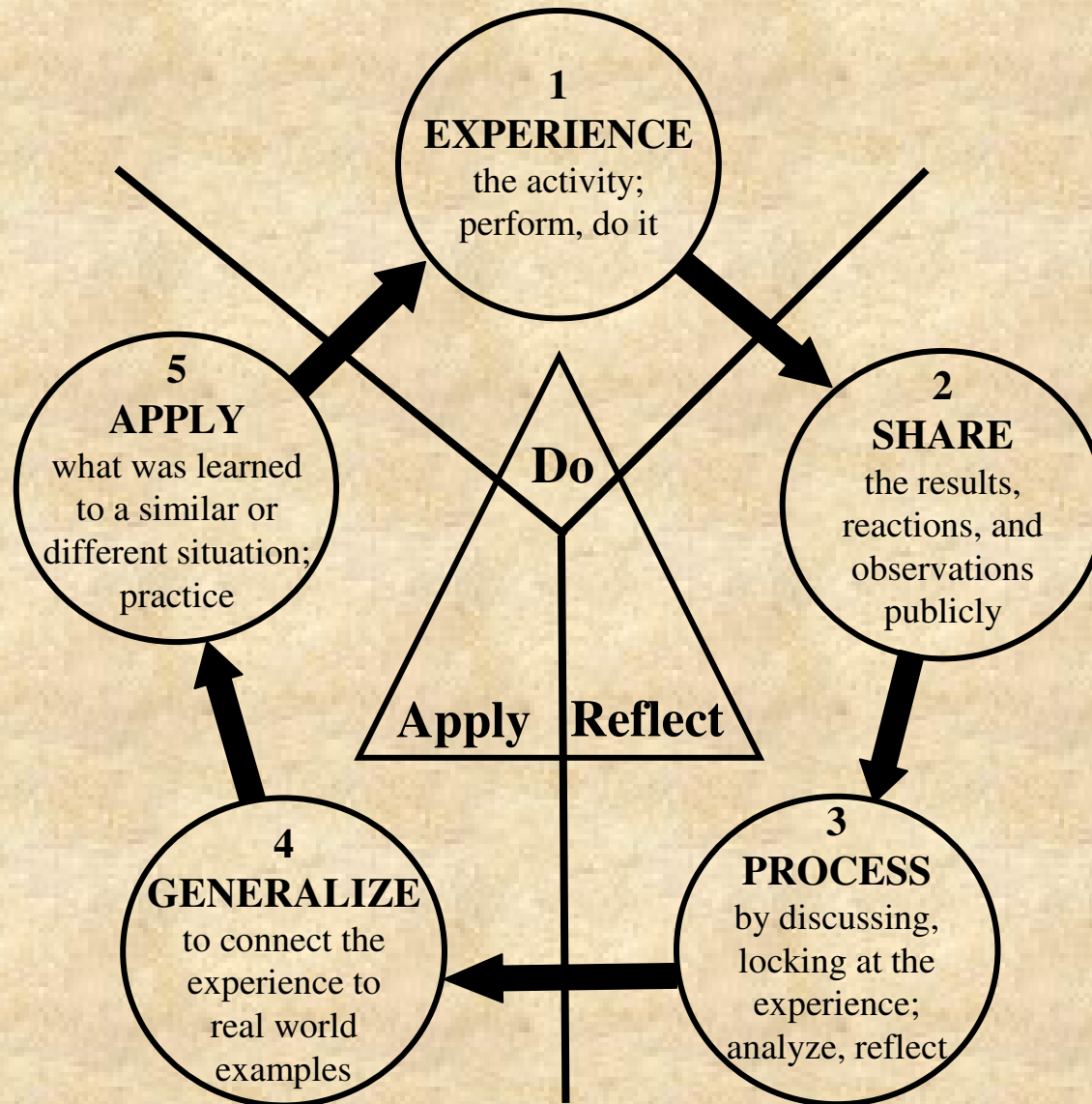
“Experiential learning takes place
when a person involved in an activity
looks back and evaluates it,
determines what was useful or important to remember,
and uses this information to perform another activity.”

John Dewey

The 4-H program promotes the Experiential Model of Learning as the primary format for educating Youth.

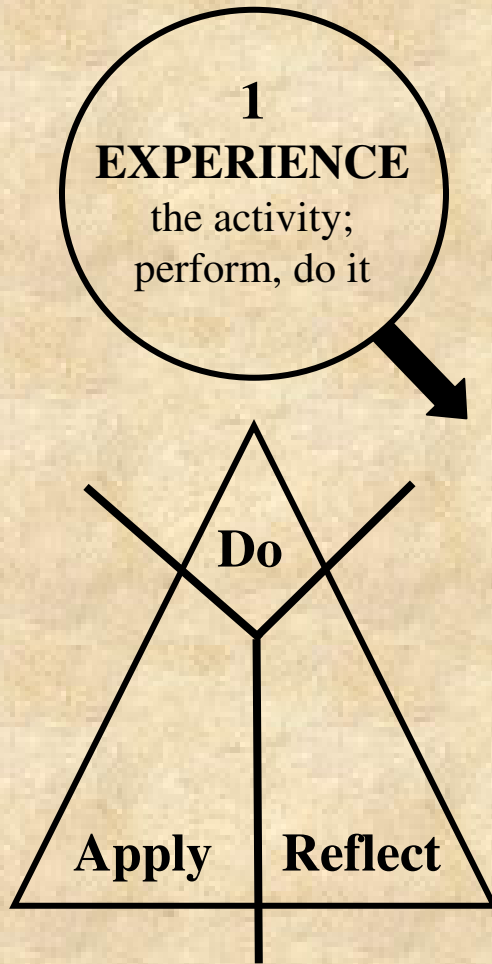
Several key processing steps take Youth beyond “simply doing” the activity or participating in the experience.

Experiential Learning Model



Action Step: Attention on the Learner

Experiencing: *Key Concept - Planning for discovery*



Key Phrases for leader:

- “Sit on your Hands,”
- observe
- facilitate to the “bigger picture.”

Key Objectives are discovery oriented:

- to explore
- to examine
- to construct
- to arrange

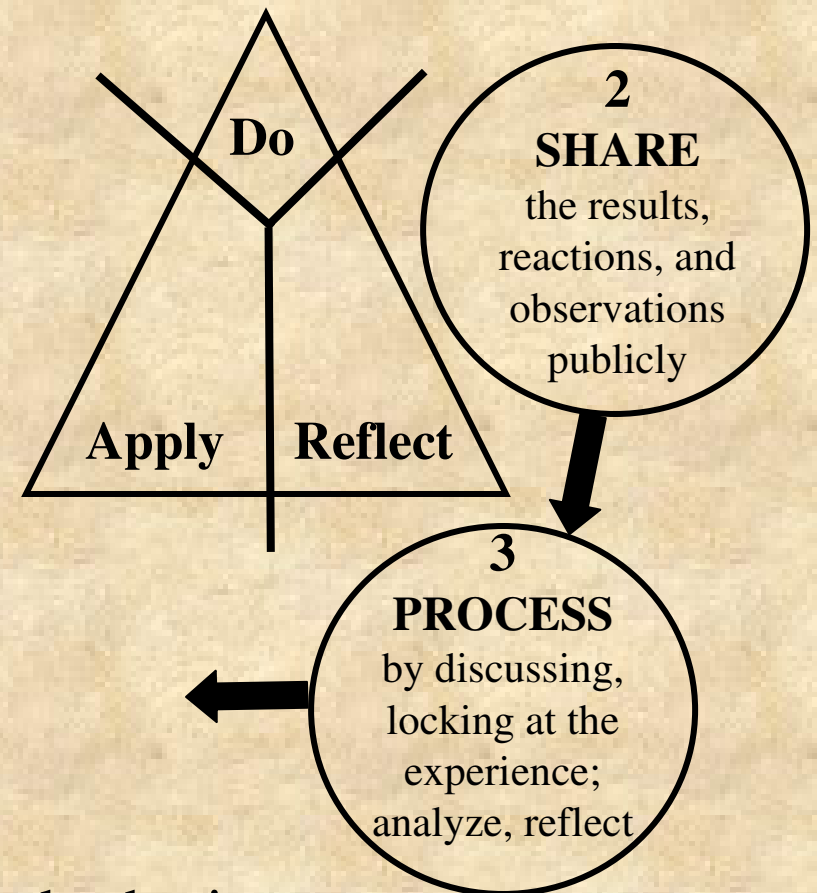
Personal and Group Reflection Steps

Sharing: *Key concept - Responding*
Key question - “What happened?”

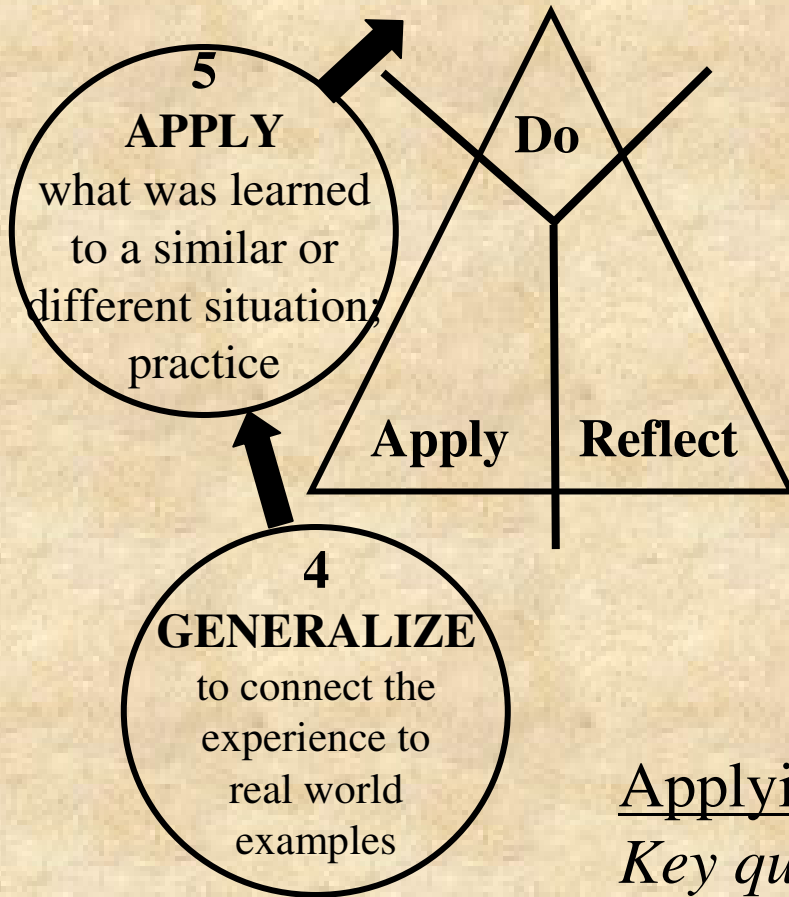
Processing: *Key concept - Analyzing*
Patterns
Key question - “What’s important?”

Leader’s role:

- allow adequate process time to include sharing
- use open-ended questioning to stimulate thinking and feeling
- encourage “pair-share” and large group share



Connection and Application Step



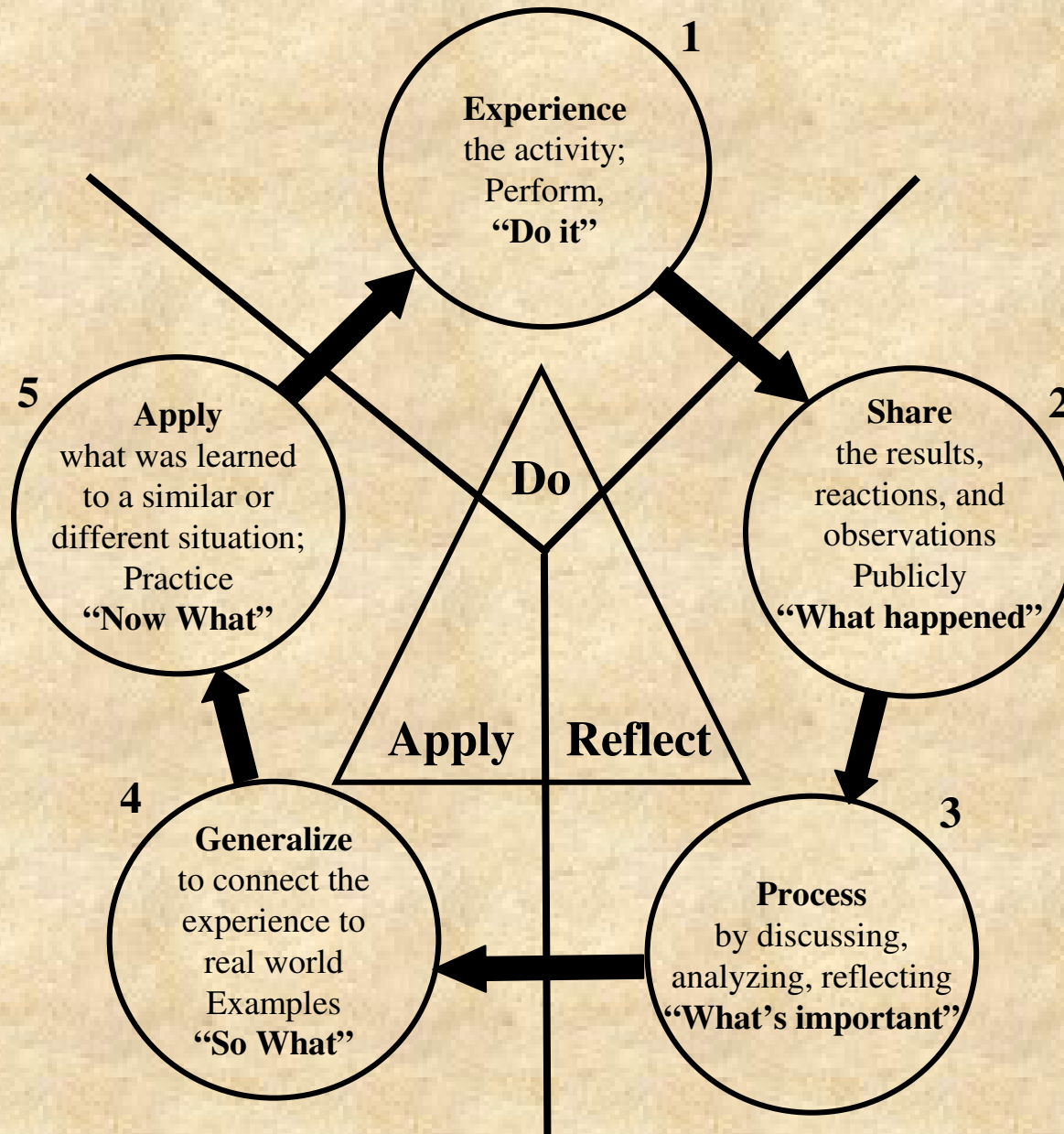
Generalizing: *Key concept - inference*
Key question - “So what?”

Leader’s role: to guide youth in making connections between personal inner meaning of the activity and the broader world.

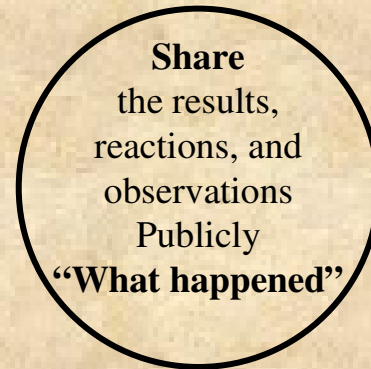
Applying: *Key concept - application*
Key question - “Now what?”

Leader’s role: to facilitate youth finding ways to use what they have learned in new situations.

Experiential Learning Model



Questions Within Questions: Open-ended Spirals



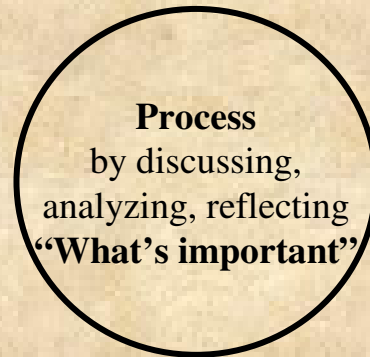
What did you do?

How did you feel?

What did you notice?

What was most difficult? Easiest?

Questions Within Questions: Open-ended Spirals



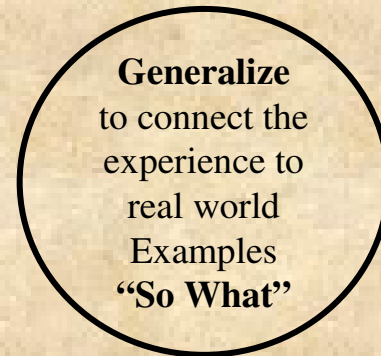
What are some important things you learned about_____?

What problems or issues seemed to occur over and over?
Why did that happen?

What if you had_____?

If you could do it again, what would you do differently?

Questions Within Questions: Open-ended Spirals

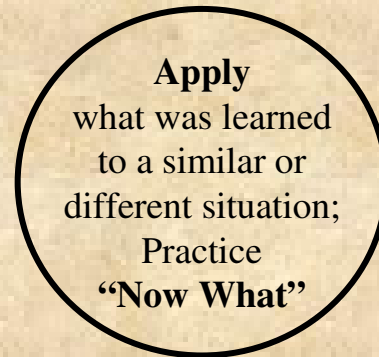


What did you learn about yourself through this activity?

How do the major themes or ideas relate
to other things you do in your life? (Identify life skills)

What did you learn about (life skill) while you were doing this activity?

Questions Within Questions: Open-ended Spirals



What will you do next time you run into a similar situation?

How can you use what you have learned in a similar situation?

What will you do differently next time?

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looks back and **evaluates** it,
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and **uses** this information to perform another activity.”

John Dewey

The Experiential Learning Model Threads Through...

Many skills in one activity

Or

In a short series of activities

Skills include:

- Life Skills
- Project / Content Skills
- Science Process Skills
- Applied Skills
- Workforce/Leadership Skills
- Service Learning Skills

Remember...

Focus on Learning and Leading Experientially
when working with 4-H Youth

We're co-learners in a youth-generated, adult facilitated
service for our future.