Design Decisions Challenge

Create the Environment You Want

Design Decisions 4-H project Challenge Activity for participants ages 12–18.

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture. The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.
YOU are the designer! Your mission — along with your parent, guardian, teacher or club leader — is to select a Design Challenge in your home.** Evaluate the challenge, determine several possible solutions, decide the best one, and DO IT!

Use the “Design Decisions” 4-H manual as your starting reference. Add additional resources from the library, the Internet, or experts in your community. As you work through your Design Challenge, take plenty of pictures to record your progress.

The final step is to report your Design Decision Challenge in a creative way (digital photo essay, multimedia presentation, journal, video, poster, notebook).

** If possible, find a “real-life” design challenge. It may be in your home or a friend’s or relative’s home or select a “virtual” challenge.

Possible Design Challenges:

- New color scheme for a room
- Room arrangement to accommodate multiple uses in the room
- Window treatments to camouflage an odd-sized window
- Storage for keepsakes, off-season clothes, school supplies
- Space planned for studying/doing homework
- Sharing space between two people
- Window treatments that are energy efficient
- Need a home recycling center
- Need energy efficient lighting
- Furniture needs a facelift
- New bedcover
- New accessories
- Going Green

Note: This is just a suggested list. Think creatively as you select YOUR challenge!
There are several options for entering the results of your completed Design Decisions Challenge:

- Enter multimedia presentations at local communications contests. You will want to follow communications contest guidelines.
- Enter multimedia presentations, posters, notebooks, and other finished projects at local county fairs. There are several classes in Design Decisions for multimedia exhibits.
- When suitable, you can also exhibit the actual project that you made or adapted to solve your Design Decisions Challenge.

Winning multimedia entries will be shown at the Nebraska State Fair.

Criteria for judging Design Decisions Challenges:

- Challenge described
- Resources listed, including Design Decisions manual
- Optional solutions identified
- Reasons for selection made and carried out
- Process clearly illustrated