

Aunt Addie's Guide to Surviving Competitions and Display'

1) Be Prepared:

- a. Look several months out to gather information on specific competitions.
- b. As you create your art, document it anyway – and then when a competition or display comes up you already have the item ready
- c. Don't try and complete a new piece the night before.

2) Give yourself the Grace of Time

- a. Try to get to the site in plenty of time to set up.
- b. If you think you might over commit your time, ask for help from a friend
- c. Take you time to write out your entry forms neatly

3) Documentation:

- a. One page versus big documentation
- b. Tabs and presentation
- c. Proof read and cite your sources

4) Presentation:

- a. a cloth to cover the table
- b. think up rather than flat
- c. arrange so that it can be seen
- d. pre-print cards of information
- e. provide copies of documentation that people can take with them

5) Commentary

- a. Place a book out for comments and a pen.
- b. If you want comments, make comments. Anyone can make comments so if you want comments, take time out to give comments to other folks. Bring tokens – nifty little things that say you cared enough to at least look.
- c. Bring your own notebook to jot down sources and information from other artists. Take advantage of the research you see to fill in the gaps of your own knowledge or to jump start a new project.

The hardest thing to remember with commentary is that judges and other are not commenting on you – the artist. They are commenting on the item. Even though we put a lot of ourselves into our art, we need to remember that judges are looking at the item and not the artist. When you receive comments that do not seem correct, it is proper to seek out the organizer of the activity and seek further clarification. Do not take the words of one judge as the sole worth of the item. Seek out a second opinion if necessary. If the judge has written a source or given their name and contact information, follow up. There may be some excellent information that will make your next project even better.