

Michelle Pramann Henry's Story:

*I've always disliked showmanship, in fact, it terrifies me. I decided to make the long trek to Ft. Worth for my first, and last year of Novice western pleasure. I couldn't bear to make my husband drive 900 miles for 1 class, so we added showmanship.*

*What was I thinking?!?! Just 5 months before the world show I struggled to get through a showmanship pattern at an open show (mind you not placing very well!) So it became a goal, to just compete and make it through my showmanship class. So it began, I worked hard...and I mean HARD! Daily trips to the barn became long evenings of teaching a green horse how to set up, how to pivot, how to stop, how to back. Then it came time to teach this green exhibitor to show with some REAL confidence. I took a couple lessons, and practiced a ton. But not too much, I figured I didn't stand a chance of even making the finals so I just focused on our preliminary pattern before we left for TX.*

*Needless to say, we did make the finals. I had just a couple hours to learn the pattern...a good friend told me to just go in and make it our "exhibition run" like the figure skaters do I had already succeeded way beyond my expectations so we went in, did our best and by golly had the best pattern I've ever had in my life! We actually scored better on the finals pattern than on the prelim pattern I had practiced for 2 weeks!*

*I could have never imaged competing at the World Show in Showmanship, let alone making the top 10. It's a testament to what hard work can do!*

Greatness is cultivated it must be nurtured and fostered; cared for as if an infant growing to adulthood.

[Stephanie Lynn](#)