The judges who are coming to learn about your Star Finalist during the Star Tours are going to be given a printed copy of the application for each finalist. Some important things to consider when you are helping your student prepare for Star Tours:

* Make sure the applications do not include SAEs that are not relevant to the finalist area.
* Star Farmer applications should only include entrepreneurship SAEs
* Star in Agribusiness applications should only include business enterprises that are student owned
* Star in Agricultural Placement should only include placement SAEs
* SAEs should be complete
  + SAE names should clearly indicate what the project is (ie: 2024-2025 Market Goat – County Fair or XYZ Farm Hand)
  + SAE plans should be complete
  + The scope should give the reader information that shows the growth, changes in responsibilities and diversification that the student has for each year their SAE is active.
  + Planned activities should include activities that are relevant to the SAE and the Results or Outcome should be filled out
  + SAE Skills that are selected should have corresponding journal entries.
  + Journal entries should accurately reflect the hours spent performing the duties outlined for the SAE
  + Financial entries should accurately reflect expenses or paid income (if applicable)
* Learning Outcomes and Efficiency factors should be relevant to the SAEs that are part of the Star award area.
  + “Beginning Level” and “Level Attained” should show growth.
  + Use different units of measurements to illustrate growth for “Beginning Level” and “Level Attained” (ex: percentages, # of animals/clients, dollars earned, etc.). Show growth in diversified ways, rather than just “beginner” and “advanced”.
  + Descriptions should relate to the efficiency factor and explain how it applies to the AFNR standard and how the growth occurred.
* Skills, Competencies, and Knowledge
  + Skills selected for each relevant SAE should have entries associated with them.
* Resume
  + Should be filled out clearly and completely.
  + Objective should be stated so that the reader is able to clearly understand the future goals of the finalist.
  + References should be included.
* Photos
  + Safety photos should highlight safety measures for the project and should illustrate what is being said about the photo in the caption (ex: the caption says safety glasses are important, but the photo does not show the finalist wearing safety glasses).
  + Diversify the photos that are used.
  + Backdrop photos don’t illustrate the tasks, skills or responsibilities that are required of a SAE.
  + Photos should be rotated so that they are oriented correctly.
  + Photos should include the finalist.
* General
* Have several people proofread the application for spelling, grammar, punctuation or capitalization errors.
* Make sure correct terminology is used for the SAEs that are included in the application (ex: farrowing or kidding instead of birthing)
* Make sure that the wording that is used is correct for the SAEs that are included in the application (ex: boer goat vs boar goat, cattle chute vs cattle shoot)