ACADEMIC DECATHLON

Topics for Oral Interview/Suggested Questions

Objective: Conduct an objective interview by creating the same situation for each student, (i.e., same judge asking the same set of questions of every student)

Instructions: From the list of questions below, **select nine (9) questions** for the interview period. Each judging team will select their own set of questions. From the student's self-introduction (question #1), feel free to ask the student to elaborate on an item they included in their introduction. A follow-up question is not required, but a judge may ask for an elaboration if he/she finds a point in the introduction interesting.

1. **"Tell us a little bit about yourself."** ***(This should always be the first question.)***

2. **Major interests in school**
   a. "What did you do as a member of _____?"
   b. "What do you enjoy most about school?"
   c. "Describe your biggest challenge at school."

3. **After school and summer activities**
   a. "How do you like to spend your time after school?"
   b. "What meaningful experiences did you have as a _____?"
   c. "What skills have you acquired as a _____ that will help you in a future job?"
   d. "Do you feel it is important to be involved in extra-curricular activities? Please explain."
   e. "How has participation in _____affected you personally?"
   f. "Describe the type of community service activities that you are involved in or would like to be involved in."
   g. "How do you feel your current activities (in or out of school) will benefit your future?"

4. **Plan for the future**
   a. "What would you like to accomplish in the next five years?"
   b. "Share with us some of your dreams for the future."
   c. "What are some of the things you would like to do upon graduation?"

5. **Individual and team preparation for the Decathlon**
   a. "How did you become interested and/or involved in the Academic Decathlon?"
   b. "What have been the benefits of being a Decathlon team member?"
   c. "What is the most difficult event in the Decathlon?"

6. **Influences, values, and miscellaneous ideas**
   a. "What values do you consider to have most strongly influenced your life?"
   b. "Who do you consider to be the most influential person in your life?"
   c. "How has this person influenced your personal growth?"
   d. "If you could travel anywhere, where would you go and why?"
   e. "What personal quality do you possess that will benefit our society or your community and why?"
   f. "If you could solve a social problem, what would it be, and how would you solve it."

Avoid questions about GPA level, religious beliefs, dating habits, and parental relationships.

SAMPLE