

South's BEST Sample Questions for Judges

Marketing Presentations

In general, questions should pertain to one or more of the items on the score sheet so that the judging panel can better evaluate the presentation. The following questions are examples that could be asked if they are not covered during the presentation.

1. How large is the school (i.e., how many students)?
2. How many students were on your BEST team?
3. What involvement did each of the team members have?
4. What involvement did the coaches or mentors have?
5. Ask the team to describe the integral workings of their robot. (*This will help determine the depth of knowledge they have of the robot and how closely they were involved in its construction*)
6. Tell about your team's publicity and fund raising efforts at your school and in your community.
7. Were any attempts made to recruit other schools in your area for next year's competition?
8. What were some ideas the team had for the robot that they chose not to include in the final design?
9. What have they learned about working as a team during this process?
10. What have they learned about engineering or science from this process? How has it influenced their concept of engineers or scientists?
11. How would you change your design process if you were starting over again?
12. Was the majority of the team's work done during school hours (as part of a class) or after school?

Team Exhibits and Interviews

1. How many people were on your BEST team? Had any of them participated in BEST last year?
2. What was your role as a member of the BEST team? Describe some of the other team roles.
3. Tell about the Team Exhibit and some of the interesting items on display. Why did you choose to include them in the booth?
4. Tell how the robot was constructed and how it works. (*Good question for Pit interview*)
5. What tool did you use the most when building the robot?
6. What was your favorite tool to use when constructing the robot?
7. Describe the team's strategy for scoring points during the competition.
8. Tell about your publicity efforts with other schools or in your community.
9. How many schools did your team mentor this year? Who were they? Did any of them participate this year or have plans to do so in the future?
10. What is your understanding of the goals behind BEST?
11. What have you learned from your experience on this team? Has it influenced you positively or negatively in regard to engineering and science?
12. What would you do differently if you were to do this again?
13. Of the other schools competing for the BEST Award, which has demonstrated good sportsmanship toward your team or others? Describe what they did.
14. What have you enjoyed MOST about the BEST competition?
15. What have you enjoyed LEAST about the BEST competition?
16. Did your team have any safety training before building the robot? What types of safety precautions did you take during the building process?
17. If you were going to spend the rest of the year promoting BEST, how would you do it?