



Competition Notebook & Interview Rubric | Mission 2026-27

Team # _____ Grade Level ☐ HS | ☐ College

Judge Name: _____

The **competition notebook** documents the team's work throughout the season.

The **team interview** allows students to demonstrate ownership, understanding, communication, and reflection.

Together, these provide a complete picture of the team's engineering journey.

Score	Performance Level	Description
5	Expert	Evidence is comprehensive, consistent, and demonstrates exceptional student ownership, technical understanding, engineering thinking, and reflection.
4	Accomplished	Evidence demonstrates a high level of understanding with only minor omissions or inconsistencies.
3	Proficient	Evidence meets expectations and demonstrates adequate understanding but may lack depth or consistency.
2	Developing	Evidence demonstrates partial understanding with noticeable gaps or limited supporting evidence.
1	Emerging	Evidence is minimal or does not adequately demonstrate understanding of the criterion.

Judge Notes

- Evaluate each criterion using evidence from both the **competition notebook** and the **team interview**.
- Evidence from one source may confirm, strengthen, or clarify evidence from the other.
- Teams are not expected to demonstrate every example found in the **Supporting Evidence Guides**.
- Score each criterion independently before considering the team's overall performance.
- Reward authentic student ownership, technical understanding, thoughtful reflection, and continuous improvement.

General Judging Principles

Reward	Do Not Reward
• Student ownership • Engineering thinking • Technical understanding • Collaboration • Reflection and continuous improvement • Authentic documentation and communication	• Length of the competition notebook • Memorized interview responses • Graphic design or presentation style • Expensive equipment or materials • Adult-generated work • Quantity over quality



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Criteria	5 – Expert, 4 – Accomplished, 3 – Proficient, 2 – Developing, 1 – Emerging	Logbook Score (1-5 points)	Interview Score (1-5 points)	Points
Communication and Technical Knowledge <i>(All Judged Awards)</i>	The team communicates clearly and accurately while demonstrating a thorough understanding of its work. Documentation is organized and meaningful, students explain concepts using appropriate technical terminology, and responses reflect authentic student ownership and understanding.			
Team Organization, Leadership, & Project Management <i>(All-Around, Airmanship)</i>	The team demonstrates effective collaboration, leadership, planning, organization, and project management throughout the season. Students explain team roles, communication, shared responsibilities, and how the team adapted to challenges and changing priorities.			
Safety, Operations, & Maintenance <i>(All Around, Engineering Design, Airmanship)</i>	The team demonstrates safe operating practices, effective risk management, and an understanding of equipment operation and maintenance. Students explain how safety, inspections, troubleshooting, repairs, and applicable drone regulations were integrated into the team's work throughout the season.			
Data & Performance Analysis <i>(All-Around, Engineering Design, Coding Systems, Airmanship)</i>	The team collects, analyzes, and applies data to improve engineering decisions, programming, mission strategy, maintenance, and overall performance. Evidence demonstrates that testing, practice, and competition results informed meaningful improvements.			
Mission Analysis & Strategy <i>(All-Around, Airmanship)</i>	The team demonstrates an understanding of mission objectives and explains how strategies were developed, tested, evaluated, and refined throughout the season. Evidence reflects strategic thinking, adaptability, and informed decision-making.			
Engineering Design & Innovation <i>(All-Around, Engineering Design)</i>	The team applies the Engineering Design Process to identify problems, develop solutions, test ideas, evaluate results, and continuously improve performance. Students demonstrate ownership of engineering decisions and explain how iterations strengthened their final solutions.			
Coding Systems: Programming Documentation & Strategies <i>(All-Around, Coding Systems)</i>	The team demonstrates an understanding of programming concepts, autonomous systems, sensors, debugging, testing, and system integration. Evidence shows how software and control systems evolved through iterative development and performance evaluation.			
Industry Connections & Workforce Readiness <i>(All-Around, Industry Insights)</i>	The team demonstrates meaningful connections between ADC Pro experiences and the drone and aviation industries. Students discuss careers, workforce skills, emerging technologies, certifications, industry practices, and educational pathways while reflecting on how their experiences prepare them for future opportunities. Research and report on current trends in aviation and drone technology. Optional 3-Panel Industry Presentation Display Teams may create a 3-panel presentation to display in the Team Pit Area and/or bring to the Team Interview.			
Notes by Judges Tip: List what makes this Team stand out.				Total Points

All Judging materials are strictly confidential. They are not shared beyond the Judges/Judge Advisor and are destroyed at the end of the event.