



TEAM INTERVIEW TIPS AND SAMPLE QUESTIONS

A successful interview is conversational rather than scripted. Judges should create an environment where all students have an opportunity to participate and demonstrate their understanding.

BEST PRACTICES

- Ask if the team has a few minutes for the interview. If the team has an upcoming match that may interfere with the interview, tell them you will come back at a better time.
- Try to include all team members in the interview.
- It is preferable to have team interviews in the pit area.
- If you are having trouble finding a team, wait for them at the field for their next match.
- It is acceptable to take a picture of each team. This will help you identify teams later during deliberations.
- Ask a quick "icebreaker" question, such as:
 - "That's a really great team logo – who designed it?"
 - "How is your team doing so far today?"
- Being a Judge gives you a unique opportunity to impact students through positive reinforcement. Just a few words of encouragement can make their day.
- Try not to ask yes-or-no questions. Encourage teams to elaborate on their answers.
- Be prepared to rephrase your questions. Be mindful of differences in communication styles.
- Be mindful of each student's individual learning needs and challenges, including students who do not speak the language that you are using as their first language. Ensure that the interview process is inclusive, supportive, and respectful of these differences.
- Be aware of different age levels. Approach students in an age-appropriate way, especially when talking to younger students.
- Be attentive to students. Do not engage in side conversations or use your phone during interviews.

BEFORE BEGINNING THE INTERVIEW

Is this a good time for an interview? Are all your team members here?

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

Opening Questions – Choose 1

- Tell us about your team and what your biggest focus has been for this season?
- What accomplishment or experience has been most meaningful to your team this season?

Possible Interview Questions – Select from these options as time and conversation allow

- Use the sample questions as conversation starters, selecting those that best fit the team and the evidence needed to evaluate the rubric. Judges are not expected to ask every question.
- **Remember:** Follow-up questions may be used at any point during the interview to clarify responses, explore evidence, or invite additional team members to participate. **Sample follow-up questions are provided at the end of this document.**

Communication & Technical Knowledge

- Tell us about your project from the beginning.
- What technical concepts were the most difficult to learn, and how did your team work through them?
- How did your competition notebook help your team document, understand and communicate your work throughout the season?

AERIAL **DRONE** COMPETITION **PRO**

Team Organization, Leadership & Project Management

- How did your team organize the work this season, and how were the responsibilities shared among the team members?
- How did your team adapt when priorities or plans changed during the season?
- Describe a time your team disagreed. How did you work through it?

Safety, Operations & Maintenance

- Walk us through how your team prepares for a safe flight, including your pre-flight inspection and risk management.
- Describe a safety, repair or maintenance issue your team identified and how you addressed it.
- What drone regulations or operating requirements are important for your team to know and follow?
- How does your team identify and manage risks during testing, practice, or competition?

Data & Performance Analysis

- What types of data did your team collect, how did you analyze it, and how did it influence a decision or improvement?
- Tell us about a test that didn't go as expected. What did you learn from it?
- How did testing or competition results influence an improvement your team made?

Mission Analysis & Strategy

- How did your mission strategy develop and evolve throughout the season?
- Tell us about a strategy that didn't work. What did your team learn, and what did you change as a result?
- What trade-offs did your team consider when developing your mission strategies?

Engineering Design & Innovation

- Describe your engineering design process.
- Tell us about a design or solution that failed. What did you learn and how did it influence your next design?
- Which design change had the greatest impact, and why?

Coding Systems: Programming Documentation & Strategies

- What programming iterations or changes did your team make, what led you to make them, and how did you document or track that progress?
- Describe a programming or debugging challenge your team faced. How did you identify and solve the problem?
- How do your hardware, sensors, and software work together as a system?
- Ask follow-up questions as needed to understand each student's contribution to the code and their understanding of the programming decisions.
 - Can you show us an example of this change in your code or explain how you documented it?

Industry Connections & Workforce Readiness

- What drone or aviation careers, certifications, or educational pathways have your team explored, and what did you learn?
- What current or emerging trend in drone or aviation technology interests your team, and why?
- What workforce skills have you developed through your team's experience, and how will you use them in the future?
- How has ADC Pro changed your understanding of the drone and aviation industries?

Possible Follow-Up Questions – Use as Needed Throughout the Interview

- Why?
- How did you know?
- What evidence supports that decision?
- Can another team member explain that?

Closing Questions – Choose 1

- Is there anything about your team or your work that we haven't asked?
- What accomplishment are you most proud of this season?