Evaluation Resources

Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF)

Student Finalist Interview Protocol

Finalist Intel ISEF Interview Protocol

Interviewer: Nancy   Peter   Ron   Heather   Jon   Interview Number _____

Searching the line: Excuse me, are you a finalist?
Congratulations on making it to the finals. I am working with Intel to evaluate Intel ISEF. We are researchers from Arizona State University. If it is okay with you we would like to ask you several questions about your path to Intel ISEF. May we interview you?

Please step over here. (The interview will be conducted in a public place.) Students should hold the tape recorder. Interviewer will scribe notes.

1. Who motivate you to participate in science fairs?

2. Besides the people you just mentioned, what other things motivated you to participate in science fairs?

3. What are the benefits of participating in science fairs?

4. How many science fair competitions have you gone through this academic year to get to this point?

5. Did participation in those fairs help you improve your project and presentation?

    a. How?

6. How long have you been working on your current project?

7. What best describes your recent science fair history—exploring different topics or staying on the same topic?

8. How did other people's ideas influence the focus of your project?

9. What makes you think that your project is better than others?

10. In what is traditionally called the Scientific Method, which was the most difficult step for you in completing your project?

    a. How did you respond to that challenge?

11. Did you work with a mentor? (If no, skip to question 12 about research classes.)

    a. Who was your mentor?

    b. How did you find your mentor?

    c. How did working with a mentor help you?

    d. What did you learn from your mentor?

12. Did you participate in a research class or club? (If no, skip to question13 about outside labs.)

    a. Tell me about it.

    b. Why did you participate?

    c. How did participation in that class or club help you?

    d. What did you learn from that class or club?

13. Did you work in an outside lab?

    a. Tell me about it.

    b. How did you make a connection with the lab?

    c. What did you do at the lab?

    d. How did the lab help you complete your project?

    e. What did you learn from working in the lab?

14. What does it take to be an Intel ISEF finalist?

15. How have your friends reacted to your success in science fairs?

16. How have other people at your school reacted?

17. What career area do you think you will pursue?

18. Did science fair participation affect your career choice?

Male   Female   Age: _____   Country/State: