

YOUR INTERVIEW WITH THE JUDGES

1. Be at ease! Many students are afraid of talking to judges but you need not be. Judges are only human and very much like other adults you know. Your interview is simply your opportunity to tell the judges what you learned by doing your experiment.
2. Be interested! If you are really interested in your experiment and what you are saying, most likely the judges will be interested too!
3. Be prepared! It is a very good idea to prepare for your interview. Ask other adults who know something about science to question you about your experiment. Write down the questions they ask and be prepared to answer those questions and others like them.

When presenting your interview, it's best to break it down into three parts: The first part is what you did. This includes your title, hypothesis, a summary of your research, and the actual steps in your experiment. The second part is your results. Here, you will show the judges your graphs or data. Part three is "What you found out" and this part is a statement of your conclusions or what you now know by doing your experiment. When explaining these three parts, make a smooth transition between each and try to present it all in five minutes or less.

Usually the judges will ask you questions you can answer, but if you are asked a difficult question to which you don't know the answer, it is best to say you don't know or are not sure of the answer (rather than "fake it"). Two questions that judges often ask are: "If you could do this project differently, what changes would you make?" and "What would you do if you had more time to do this project?" Think about these questions before the interview. Did you run out of time? After doing your experiment, did you find that you had more questions than when you started? Did you find any flaws in your experiment that you would like to fix? The judges will be impressed if you have answers ready to these questions.

4. Have fun! Interviews are both interesting and fun. By talking to the judges you will probably learn new things. They are usually experts in their field and they may give you some useful tips or ideas for next year's science project.

