

WISCONSIN ACADEMIC DECATHLON

INTERVIEW PROCEDURE

The students will be judged on their ability to do the following:

1. Informally and orally present ideas and responses that are appropriate to the setting and the question asked.
2. Listen to the comments and inquiries of the interviewers and elaborate with interesting detail and vivid impressions while avoiding repetition.
3. Establish and maintain rapport with members of the interview group through voice, gesture, and attitudinal posture.
4. Use voice, vocabulary, and language structures appropriate to informal oral communication.

At a scheduled time during the competition, each student will report to a designated interview room with a panel of two judges. The student will remain there for a 7-minute period. The head judge will make introductions and welcome the contestant. Questions and conversation with the contestant will be generally limited to the following areas:

1. Studies in school
2. Activities in school
3. Activities in the community
4. Career and college plans and goals
5. Preparation and experiences in the Decathlon
6. Role models and influential persons
7. Travel
8. Hobbies
9. Challenges in life

Note: Wisconsin does *not* use a formal resumé.

STUDENTS ARE SCORED IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES

DELIVERY

Voice Projection is the way a speaker controls volume, clarity and distinctness of voice to gain greater audibility. Voice should have a variety of rate, volume and pitch to engage interest, hold attention, and convey self-assurance.

Non-Verbal Language refers to the manner in which the candidate uses gestures, facial expressions and physical involvement for effective communication. It is the indirect revelation of the candidate's real self while speaking. The candidate should speak with enthusiasm and assurance, showing interest in the interviewers and confidence in his/her responses.

Through the interview process, the individual reveals:

- Problem-Solving Skills
- Analytical Skills
- Organizational Skills
- Creating/Developing Skills
- Interpersonal Skills
- Promotional Skills

Keep these skills in mind when asking questions of the candidates. Help the candidate to develop experience in answering questions that reveal these skills.

LANGUAGE

Language Usage refers to the appropriate choice of words, proper use of grammar and correct enunciation. Language should promote clear understanding of thoughts and be appropriate for the occasion.

CONTENT

Listening Skill — the ability to analyze and interpret “what is being asked.”

In order to answer skillfully and address the issue being considered, the candidate must listen carefully and attentively. The candidate's response to the questions will give an indication of his/her level of attention and ability to identify, sort and process information being requested.

Answering Skill — the ability to:

1. address the issue being considered.
2. present information in a clear, concise manner.
3. organize information in a logical and sequential order.
4. adjust response appropriately to a variety of audiences.
5. pace conversation to convey necessary information and achieve purpose.

Order, logic, imagination, intelligence and other personal qualities are reflected in the way answers are given. A well thought-out answer engages the interviewers' attention and gives insight into the candidate's personal qualities, skills, goals and experiences. Relevant examples and illustrations support the answers. All information presented should be relevant to the question being asked.

Overall Effectiveness is measured by the:

1. nature of information provided.
2. manner in which it was communicated.
3. overall impression it created.
4. rapport established between the interviewer and candidate.



Some of the questions to consider are:

- Did the candidate provide the information requested in a skillful manner?
- Was the information relevant and meaningful?
- Was the candidate able to achieve a positive impression of his/her skills, experiences and personal qualities?

POINT SYSTEM

**A maximum of 1000 points
can be earned by each team member in the interview.**