

TIPS AND TRICKS

Interview Preparation Edition

- **Understanding the Interview:**

- Purpose: They want to see if you're a good fit not just on paper, but in personality, skills, and mindset
- Goal: Show who you are, what you've done, and why you're a strong fit

- **Tell Me About Yourself**

- Use a present → past → future structure
- Example: "I'm a senior at XX high school. Ever since I was little, I have been extremely interested in helping kids, and I have done this through my past job as a babysitter and by tutoring my brother in his schoolwork. Now, I am excited to explore these opportunities that combine my love for helping kids and my passion for education."

- **Why do you want this position/role?**

- Show genuine interest and tie it into your goals
 - Example: "This role aligns with my passion for mentorship and leadership. I want to expand opportunities for others the way mentors have done for me."

- **What's your biggest strength/weakness?**

- Strength: Take a test that will discover your strengths and see which best backs up the position, and use it to your advantage
- Weakness: Be honest, but frame it like you are still working on it
 - Example: "I used to take on too much myself, but I've learned to delegate by leading teams in DECA."

- **Tell me about a challenge you faced and how you handled it**

- Use the STAR method (Situation, Task, Action, Result)

■ Example: “When launching a summer program, some middle schoolers didn’t feel confident presenting. I created mini-workshops, and by the end, 80% of them competed successfully.”

- **Why should we choose you?**

- Highlight unique value + experience + passion
 - “My leadership in student organizations and passion for spreading education show I can both execute and inspire.”

- **Final Tips**

- Have **3–4 “go-to stories”** ready that showcase:
 - Leadership
 - Teamwork
 - Overcoming challenges
 - Innovation/initiative
- Non-Verbal Preparation:
 - Maintain eye contact (shows confidence)
 - Smile + nod (active engagement)
 - Use hand gestures naturally (not too much)
 - Sit up straight (posture = presence)
- Bring energy: enthusiasm sets you apart.
- Be yourself
- Send a thank-you email within 24 hours.