

RCJV Interview Guide



Rationale

The primary aim of the interviews is to give the students the experience of articulating their learning and ideas to an adult audience with which they are not familiar. The secondary aim is to try to determine whether the students have built the robot and written the code themselves or whether they might have been given too much assistance by a mentor. Students attending interviews should have their netbook with programming open, and their robot.

The level of understanding the students should have of their program depends on the league they are competing in. Interviewers should use a mixture of open and closed questions to keep the interview as more of a free-flowing conversation than a grilling.

Some sample prompts for each league might be:

Riley

- What type of sensors, have you used on your robot?
- How do they work?
- How would your robot end up reading this line of your program (point to a part on their netbook)
- How did you go about writing your program, did you use any programs or websites to help you? If so which sites?
- What is working well on your robot today, are there any changes you need to make?

Primary

As for Riley, plus...

- How do you calibrate your robot's program?
- How did you program your robot to read the green hints?
- Do you think the seesaw is more of a programming challenge or a robot design challenge?
- How has the robot been programmed to find the can and rescue it?

Secondary

As for Primary plus...

- What the most challenging part of securing the can?
- Do you have any strategies or tactics for how you are approaching each round of the competition?
- If you were mentoring another team, what piece of advice would you offer them to help them have a successful competition?

Advanced

As for Secondary plus...

- Did you have to make any changes to your turn on green program for the gridlock tile?
- How does your robot detect and lift the can? How does it locate the evacuation platform?

Lookout for any teams who have issues answering questions or cannot explain why their program works and make a note of these on your interview schedule. It is also likely that you will see similarities between programs within the same school/organisation which is acceptable. Call another interviewer for a second opinion and if need be, raise your concerns with the Rescue Chair or Victorian Chair.

If a team is found to have insufficient understanding of their program, they will be permitted to continue competing, but shall receive a blank score or 'Un-Ranked'.