

# Student Interview Guide

Strong interviews come from listening well enough to ask the next question.

## BEFORE THE INTERVIEW

- Know who you are talking with and why they were invited.
- Learn enough background to avoid questions a quick search could answer.
- Prepare open questions that invite stories and explanations.
- Decide who will introduce, ask, follow up, and close.

## DURING THE INTERVIEW

- Listen to the answer instead of staring at the next question.
- Ask a follow-up when something interesting appears.
- Give the guest time to think.
- Do not interrupt unnecessarily.
- Ask for clarification when you genuinely do not understand.
- Treat the guest and topic with respect.

## Better question stems

- What was that experience like for you?
- Can you give us an example?
- Why did that matter?
- What advice would you give someone our age?
- What do you wish people understood about...?
- What happened next?
- What did you learn from that?

## Plan your interview

Guest / topic

Opening question

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

Question 5

Closing question

## FOLLOW-UP I WANT TO REMEMBER

A strong follow-up often begins with: "Tell me more about that," "What do you mean by...?" or "Why was that important?"

Built from Nicholas's BAGO Mic interview experience. Respect the guest, the community, privacy/permission requirements, and the purpose of the conversation.